



SENATE BILL 187: Teacher Licensure/Retired Educator Program.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	March 15, 2023
Introduced by:	Sens. McInnis, Johnson, Barnes	Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 187 would make changes to teacher licensure requirements and revive and expand the program to allow retired educators to return to work in high-need schools.*

PART I. TEACHER LICENSURE CHANGES

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-270.20(a) establishes five different classes of teaching license, including:

- Continuing professional license (CPL): Five-year renewable license
- Emergency license (EL): One-year nonrenewable license
- Initial professional license (IPL): Three-year nonrenewable license
- Limited license (LL): Three-year nonrenewable license
- Residency license (RL): One-year license, renewable twice

G.S. 115C-270.15 requires applicants for an IPL or RL to achieve a prescribed minimum score on a standard examination. Elementary (K-6) and special education general curriculum teachers must also pass subtests or standard examinations specific to teaching reading and mathematics. Applicants can fulfill any exam requirements before or during the third year of licensure, provided the applicant took the exam at least once during the first year of licensure. An IPL or RL cannot be converted to a CPL if the exam requirements have not been met.

A limited license can be granted to an individual who (i) was issued an IPL or RL but failed to fulfill the licensure examination requirements after three years or (ii) is licensed out-of-state. The limited license must be requested by the local board of education currently employing or seeking to employ the individual and can only be used for continued employment within that local school administrative unit.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1.1 would make limited licenses renewable. When renewing a limited license, the local board of education must evaluate the teacher's effectiveness. Teachers who teach subjects that use the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) must demonstrate that the teacher meets or exceeds expectations of growth as measured by EVAAS, if available. This section would apply to any teacher holding a limited license as of the date the bill becomes law and beginning with applications submitted on or after the date the bill becomes law.

Section 1.2 requires the SBE, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction and the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission, to develop an alternative to the examination requirements for conversion from an IPL and an RL to a CPL. The alternative must accommodate circumstances in which the examination may not be the most appropriate or efficient pathway of evaluating a teacher's readiness or effectiveness for licensure. Additionally, the SBE must

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examine issues related to licensure classes and teacher salary, including ways to increase recruitment and retention by directly corresponding classes of licensure with compensation and any changes in State law needed to accommodate the recommendations. By February 15, 2024, the SBE would be required to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the following:

- The development of the alternative to examination requirements
- Any proposed salary incentives tied to classes of licensure
- Any legislative changes needed for implementation of the recommendations

Section 1.3 would require the SBE to grant a teaching license to servicemembers (including their spouses) who meet the following criteria:

- Possess a teaching license issued by an entity other than the SBE
- Relocate to the State because of military orders for military service
- The servicemember provides to the SBE a copy of the military orders
- The servicemember remains in good standing with the following:
 - The licensing authority that issued the license
 - Every other licensing authority that has issued to the servicemember a license similar in scope to a teaching license
- The servicemember submits to the authority of the SBE for purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements

The SBE would be required to adopt rules to determine which class of teacher license would be issued to servicemembers.

If the servicemember is transferred out of the State on military orders for military service during a school year, the license would terminate at the end of the school year during which the servicemember was transferred.

The SBE would be required to adopt temporary rules to comply with this section.

PART II. REVIVE AND EXPAND THE PROGRAM TO ALLOW RETIRED EDUCATORS TO RETURN TO WORK IN HIGH-NEED SCHOOLS

CURRENT LAW: S.L. 2019-110 established a temporary program that allowed certain retired teachers to return to work in certain high-need schools and still receive their full retirement benefits. The program expired June 30, 2021.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 2 would reenact the temporary program established by S.L. 2019-110 and expand it to include certain instructional support personnel. The reenacted program would expire June 30, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, the bill would be effective when it becomes law.