



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

# HOUSE BILL 681: Teacher Licensure/Military Spouses.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - K-12	<b>Date:</b>	April 25, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. G. Martin, Horn	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Brian Gwyn
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H681-CSBE-19		Committee Co-Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 681 would provide for procedures to decrease the burden on military spouses in obtaining N.C. teacher licenses. The PCS would do the following:

- Limit the testing exemption to military spouses, and further limit both the testing exemption and temporary license to military spouses whose spouse has been transferred to North Carolina.
- Remove requirement that DPI expedite military spouse applications and instead direct DPI to study the issue.
- Move the changes to G.S. 93B-15.1, and add a cross-reference located in G.S. 115C-296.

**CURRENT LAW:** Under G.S. 115C-296(a), the State Board of Education is directed to require applicants for an initial bachelor's degree license or graduate degree teaching license to meet a minimum score on a standardized test that demonstrates the applicant's academic and professional preparation. Additionally, elementary education (K-6) and special education general curriculum applicants must meet a minimum score on a standardized test specific to teaching reading and mathematics. G.S. 115C-296(a1) directs the State Board to establish minimum scores for those standardized tests.

Under G.S. 93B-15.1(b), the State Board must issue a teaching license to a military spouse who meets the following criteria:

- Holds a current license or certification from another jurisdiction, and that jurisdiction's requirements are substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements for licensure in North Carolina.
- Can demonstrate competency in teaching through methods as determined by the State Board, such as having completed continuing education units or having had recent experience for at least two of the five years.
- Has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a North Carolina teaching license.
- Is in good standing and has not been disciplined by the agency that had jurisdiction to issue the license or certification.
- Pays any fees required by the State Board.

G.S. 93B-15.1(f) authorizes the State Board to issue a temporary practice permit to a military spouse licensed or certified in another jurisdiction while satisfying the requirements for North Carolina licensure, as long as the requirements in the other jurisdiction are substantially equivalent to those of North Carolina.

Karen Cochran-Brown  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578

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G.S. 296.12 authorizes a lateral entry pathway for individuals to receive a teaching license even if they have not completed an educator preparation program. Eligible individuals can receive a lateral entry license and beginning teaching for up to three years while also completing a program of study. To teach for a fourth year, the individual must have completed the program of study.

## **BILL ANALYSIS:**

### SECTION 1

- Exempts military spouse applicants from testing requirements of G.S. 115C-296(a1) if they meet the following criteria:
  - (1) All other requirements for licensure in North Carolina are met.
  - (2) Spouse is the subject of a military transfer to North Carolina.
  - (3) They have at least three years of teaching experience out of the past five.
  - (4) They have satisfactory performance evaluations and met expectations of student growth in the three most recent years of teaching.
- Authorizes a military spouse to be eligible for a temporary license of two years if (1) he or she meets the requirements of G.S. 93B-15.1(b); (2) his or her spouse is the subject of a military transfer to North Carolina; and (3) the military spouse does not have the necessary teaching experience to qualify for the testing exemption.

### SECTION 2

- Adds a cross-reference to 93B-15.1 in G.S. 115C-296.

### SECTION 3

- Requires the State Board to direct Regional Alternative Licensing Centers (RALCs) and approved educator preparation programs to efficiently evaluate and advise military spouses applies for a lateral entry teaching license, including expediting the process and removing obstacles
- Directs the State Board to report the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the procedures developed for RALCs and educator preparation programs by November 15, 2017

### SECTION 4

- Directs the Department of Public Instruction to study the licensure process as it relates to military spouses, including the feasibility of expediting the processing of licensure applications submitted by military spouses who meet the criteria of G.S. 93B-15.1.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to applications for teacher licensure submitted on or after that date.