



HOUSE BILL 521: Transitional License/Teacher from Other State.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	April 25, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Clemmons, Horn, Riddell, Gailliard	Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The 2nd edition of House Bill 521 would provide for a three-year transitional license for teachers from other states and authorize local boards of education to determine experience credit for those teachers to pay them at the commensurate level on the State salary schedule during the first year of the license. Additionally, it would reduce the service requirement for a lifetime teaching license from 50 years to 30 years.*

CURRENT LAW: Under G.S. 115C-270.20, a CPL is a five-year renewable license issued to a teacher who has at least three years of licensed teaching experience, and who meets other requirements set by the State Board.

G.S. 115C-270.20 defines an initial professional license (IPL) as a three-year nonrenewable license issued to an individual who has successfully completed a recognized educator preparation program and meets other requirements set by the State Board. G.S. 115C-270.15 requires applicants for an IPL to complete a standardized exam related the licensure content area. Applicants seeking licensure in elementary education and special education general curriculum must also take tests or subtests specific to teaching reading and mathematics. Individuals with an IPL have until the end of their second year of teaching to pass the licensure exams, provided that they have at least attempted the exams during their first year of teaching.

A lifetime license, as defined by G.S. 115C-270.20, is a license issued to a teacher with 50 or more years of teaching as a licensed teacher that requires no renewal.

G.S. 115C-270.25 requires teachers with a license from another state to show evidence of their effectiveness as a teacher. Out-of-state teachers that have such evidence can receive a CPL, assuming they have at least three years of licensed teaching experience, but out-of-state teachers without such evidence are only eligible for an IPL, regardless of years of experience.

BILL ANALYSIS: The 2nd edition of House Bill 521 would create a transitional license (TL), which would be a three-year nonrenewable license issued to individuals with a current license in good standing in another state. The TL would have to be requested by a local board of education. An individual applying for a TL would not be required to show evidence of effectiveness in order to obtain the license, but the individuals could still apply for a CPL if they had at least three years of licensed teaching experience and evidence of effectiveness. Otherwise, they could convert the TL to a CPL after three years of teaching in North Carolina.

Additionally, the bill would authorize local boards of education to determine the experience credit for teachers with a TL during the first year of the license, which determines how much that teacher would be paid with State-allotted funds. The local board of education and the teacher would not be responsible for

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the repayment of any overpayment of State funds if the experience credit determination was done in good faith and in accordance with State Board guidelines. After the first year of the TL, the State Board would determine the appropriate experience credit and thereby determine the teacher's placement on the State salary schedule, regardless of the pay that the teacher received during the first year of the TL.

Finally, the bill would reduce the service requirement for a lifetime license from 50 years to 30 years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would be effective when it becomes law, and would apply beginning with applications for teacher licensure submitted on or after that date.