



SENATE BILL 219: Modify Teacher Licensing Requirements.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education.	If Date:	April 30, 2019
	favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate		
Introduced by:	Sens. McInnis, Tillman, Johnson	Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S219-CSBE-15		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 219 would make various changes to the teacher licensure statutes. **The PCS would require the State Board of Education (State Board) to monitor teachers' compliance with licensure exam requirements and would prohibit the State Board from converting a teacher's initial professional license (IPL) to a continuing professional license (CPL) until all licensure exam requirements are met. Additionally, the PCS would create a new teaching license for individuals who do not meet the criteria for a CPL due to a failure to fulfill the licensure exam requirements.**

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. An IPL is 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 meet minimum scores on a standardized licensure exam in order to demonstrate the applicant's academic and professional preparation. Elementary education (K-6) and special education general curriculum teachers must also meet minimum scores on licensure exams specific to teaching reading and mathematics. Teachers have until the end of their second year of teaching to fulfill the licensure exam requirements, as long as they attempt the exams at least once during their first year of teaching.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS to Senate Bill 219 would clarify that the State Board is responsible for monitoring teachers' compliance with the licensure exam requirements established by G.S. 115C-270.15. Additionally, it would clarify that teachers must meet the exam requirements by the end of the second year of their IPL rather than their second year of teaching. The State Board would be prohibited from converting an IPL to a CPL for a teacher who has not fulfilled the testing requirements.

The PCS would create a new teaching license, called a limited license, for certain teachers who are not eligible for a CPL. A limited license would be valid for three years and could be renewed. The limited license could only be requested by the local board of education currently employing the teacher, and would only be valid in that local school administrative unit (LEA). All of the following would be required for the State Board to issue a limited license:

- The teacher was issued an IPL but did not qualify for a CPL due to a failure to fulfill the licensure exam requirements.

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- The employing local board of education submitted to the State Board an affidavit signed by the teacher's principal and superintendent attesting to the fact that the individual is an effective teacher and will be encouraged to continue to pursue a CPL.
- The teacher's LEA is in either a Tier 1 area, Tier 2 area, or Tier 3 area with a population of less than 100,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to applicants for teacher licensure on or after that date.