



SENATE BILL 219: Modify Teacher Licensing Requirements.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	December 5, 2019
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Drupti Chauhan Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-71		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2019-71, as amended by Sec. 8 of S.L. 2019-212, does all of the following:*

- *Makes various changes related to testing to the initial professional teacher (IPL) licensure statutes.*
- *Creates a one-year IPL extension for certain teachers.*
- *Creates a new limited teaching license for individuals who do not meet the criteria for a continuing professional license and for out-of-state teacher licensees.*
- *Authorizes local boards of education to determine experience credit for newly employed teachers to pay them at the commensurate level on the State salary schedule during the first year of employment.*
- *Reduces the service requirement for a lifetime teaching license from 50 years to 30 years.*
- *Provides for emergency rulemaking to effectuate the requirements of the act.*

This act became effective July 1, 2019, and, except as otherwise provided, applies beginning July 19, 2019.

Part I: Modifications to Initial Professional Licenses

Bill Analysis: Part I of the act provides that the State Board of Education (SBE) is responsible for monitoring teachers' compliance with the licensure exam requirements that are effective for licenses issued on or after July 1, 2019. Teachers holding an initial professional license (IPL) must meet the exam requirements by the end of the third year of their IPL rather than their second year of teaching and the SBE is prohibited from converting an IPL to a continuing professional license (CPL) for a teacher who has not fulfilled the testing requirements. Part I also provides a one-year extension for elementary education (K-6) or special education general curriculum teachers with an IPL, a lateral entry license, or residency license (RL) that is set to expire June 30, 2019, because of a failure to fulfill the licensure examination requirements.

Part II: Limited License

Bill Analysis: Part II of the act creates a new teaching license, called a limited license, for certain teachers who are either not eligible for a CPL or who have an out-of-state teaching license. A limited license is valid for three years and cannot be renewed. A limited license can only be requested by the local board of education currently employing or seeking to employ the teacher, and would only be valid in that local school administrative unit. All of the following are required for the SBE to issue a limited license:

- For In-state licensees:

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- The teacher was issued an IPL or RL but failed to meet the exam requirements after three years of IPL or RL licensure.
- The employing local board of education submitted to the SBE 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.
- A teacher holding an IPL as of July 1, 2019, who otherwise met the requirements may be granted a limited license.
- For Out-of-state Licensees:
 - The teacher holds current teacher licensure in another state that is in good standing.
 - The local board of education submits to the SBE an affidavit signed by the superintendent for the local board of education stating that the local board seeks to employ the teacher, that the teacher has been employed as a licensed teacher in another state for at least three years, and that the teacher will be encouraged to pursue an IPL or CPL, as appropriate for that teacher.

Part III: Pay for Newly Employed Teachers with Experience Credit

Bill Analysis: Part III of the act authorizes local boards of education to determine the experience credit for newly employed teachers for the first year of employment, which determines how much that teacher will be paid with State-allotted funds. The local board of education and the teacher will not be responsible for the repayment of any overpayment of State funds if the experience credit determination was done in good faith and in accordance with SBE guidelines. However, the local board of education will be responsible if the local board did not use due diligence to verify the prior work experience. After the first year of employment, the SBE will 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.

Part IV: Modifications to Lifetime Teaching Licenses

Bill Analysis: Part IV of the act reduces the service requirement for a lifetime license from 50 years to 30 years, and makes a conforming change to eliminate the category of retirement licenses. An individual qualifies for the lifetime license when that person holds a current North Carolina teaching license and has 30 or more years of creditable service in the retirement system.

Part V: Emergency Rulemaking

Bill Analysis: Part V of the act authorizes the SBE to adopt emergency rules to implement the requirements of the act in accordance with its timeline.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act became effective July 1, 2019, and, except as otherwise provided, applies beginning July 19, 2019.