



HOUSE BILL 824: Teacher Licensure Changes.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 3, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Cotham, Elmore	Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The 2nd edition of House Bill 824 would grant a continuing professional license to a teacher who is licensed in another state with substantially similar licensure requirements and has at least three years of teaching experience. Additionally, it would make limited licenses renewable.*

CURRENT LAW: An initial professional license (IPL) is a three-year nonrenewable license issued to an individual who has successfully completed a recognized educator preparation program. G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(3).

A continuing professional license (CPL) is a five-year renewable license issued to a teacher with at least three years of licensed teaching experience. G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(1). Additionally, prior to receiving a CPL, the teacher must meet minimum scores set by the State Board of Education (SBE) on required licensure exams. G.S. 115C-270.15(e).

A limited license (LL) is a three-year nonrenewable license that must be requested by a local board of education employing or seeking to employ the individual and can only be used for employment in that local school administrative unit. The SBE cannot require individuals to pass licensure exams to receive an LL. G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(4a).

An LL can be granted to an individual who (i) was issued an IPL or residency license but failed to fulfill the licensure examination requirements after three years or (ii) is licensed out-of-state. The LL 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.

G.S. 115C-270.25 requires that applications for a CPL from an individual with an out-of-state license include evidence of the teacher's effectiveness. An individual without evidence of effectiveness can only be eligible for an IPL or LL.

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill would require the SBE to grant a CPL to a teacher licensed in another state if the following requirements are met:

- The other state has substantially similar licensure requirements as North Carolina.
- The teacher has at least three years of teaching experience.
- The teacher is in good standing with the other state.

Additionally, the bill would make LLs renewable. For a teacher to renew a limited license, the employing local board of education would have to submit an affidavit stating all of the following:

- The teacher is currently employed by the local board of education.

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- The teacher is an effective teacher. For teachers who have available growth data under the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS), the data must demonstrate that the teacher meets or exceeds expectations of growth.
- The teacher will be encouraged to continue to pursue a CPL.

For license renewals that occur on or before July 1, 2025, the State Board of Education could only require the teacher to meet the affidavit requirements.

The bill would also make conforming changes to the licensure statutes.

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