



SENATE BILL 840: Teacher Licensure Modifications.

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

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations/Base Budget	Date:	April 29, 2026
Introduced by:	Sens. McInnis, Lee, Burgin	Prepared by:	Bryson Penley Committee Co-Counsel
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: *S.B. 840 would modify the laws governing educator preparation program teacher licensure, including:*

- *Eliminating the testing requirements for admission to an educator preparation program.*
- *Eliminating the requirement that a teacher attempt to pass licensure exams during the first year of licensure.*
- *Eliminating the requirement that a teacher licensure applicant with an out-of-state license hold a license from a state with substantially similar requirements.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-269.15 requires educator preparation programs (EPPs) to establish minimum admissions requirements, including a testing requirement that an applicant for admission to an EPP (i) earn a passing score on a preprofessional skills test, (ii) earn a minimum score on either the SAT or ACT, or (iii) hold a bachelor's degree.

G.S. 115C-270.15 requires initially licensed teachers to pass certain licensure examinations by the end of their third year of licensure to convert to a continuing professional license (CPL). A teacher must attempt to pass these licensure examinations during the first year of licensure.

G.S. 115C-270.25 requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to issue a CPL to teachers holding an out-of-state teaching license if the out-of-state teacher (i) holds a teaching license from a state with substantially similar licensure requirements, (ii) has three years of teaching experience, and (iii) is in good standing with the other state.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 would eliminate the testing requirements for admission to an EPP.

Section 2 would eliminate the requirement that a teacher attempt to pass certain licensure examinations during the first year of licensure.

Section 3 would require the SBE to grant a CPL to a teacher holding a license from another state if the teacher has three years of teaching experience and is in good standing with the other state, regardless of the other state's licensure requirements.

Section 4 would appropriate \$50,000 in nonrecurring funds to the Department of Public Instruction to implement the requirements of this bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The appropriation in Section 4 would become effective July 1, 2026. The remainder would be effective when it becomes law.

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