

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 219  
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 5/1/19  
PROPOSED HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S219-PCS15355-TC-30

Short Title: Modify Teacher Licensing Requirements.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 12, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY TEACHER LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4  
5 **PART I. MODIFICATIONS TO INITIAL PROFESSIONAL LICENSES**

6 **SECTION 1.1.** G.S. 115C-270.15 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 115C-270.15. Examination requirements for initial professional licenses.**

8 (a) Examination Score Requirements. – The State Board of Education shall require an  
9 applicant for an initial professional license (IPL) to demonstrate the applicant's academic and  
10 professional preparation by achieving a prescribed minimum score on a standard examination  
11 appropriate and adequate for that purpose. Elementary education (K-6) and special education  
12 general curriculum teachers shall also achieve a prescribed minimum score on subtests or  
13 standard examinations specific to teaching reading and mathematics.

14 (b) Establishment of Minimum Scores. – The State Board shall adopt rules that establish  
15 the minimum scores for any required standard examinations and other measures necessary to  
16 assess the qualifications of professional educators as required under this section. For purposes of  
17 this section, the State Board shall not be subject to Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General  
18 Statutes. At least 30 days prior to changing any rule adopted under this section, the State Board  
19 shall provide written notice to all recognized educator preparation programs and to all local  
20 boards of education. The written notice shall include the proposed revised rule. The State Board  
21 of Education shall make any required standard initial professional licensure exam rigorous and  
22 raise the prescribed minimum score as necessary to ensure that each applicant has received  
23 high-quality academic and professional preparation to teach effectively.

24 (c) Time Line for Completion of Examinations. – The State Board of Education shall  
25 permit an applicant to fulfill any such ~~testing~~ examination requirement before or during the  
26 ~~applicant's second year of teaching, third year of the IPL,~~ provided the applicant took the  
27 examination at least once during the first year of ~~teaching the license.~~

28 (d) Monitoring Compliance. – For teachers with an IPL, the State Board shall direct the  
29 Department of Public Instruction to monitor the teachers' compliance with this section throughout  
30 the duration of the IPL. In the event a teacher is not in compliance with any of the requirements  
31 of this section, the Department shall notify the teacher.

32 (e) Conversion to Continuing Professional License. – The State Board shall not convert  
33 an IPL to a continuing professional license for a teacher who has not fulfilled the examination  
34 requirements of this section."



1           **SECTION 1.2.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to  
2 read:

3           "(4a) Limited license. – A three-year nonrenewable license issued to an individual  
4           who meets the requirements of this subdivision. A limited license shall only  
5           be requested by the local board of education currently employing the  
6           individual and shall be used for continued employment only in that local  
7           school administrative unit. To receive a limited license, the following  
8           requirements shall be met:

9           a.       The individual was issued an IPL but did not qualify for a CPL under  
10           G.S. 115C-270.15(e).

11           b.       The local board of education submits to the State Board an affidavit  
12           stating that the teacher is an effective teacher and will be encouraged  
13           to continue to pursue a CPL. The affidavit shall be signed by both the  
14           principal and superintendent for the school to which the teacher is  
15           currently assigned."

16           **SECTION 1.3.** Elementary education (K-6) or special education general curriculum  
17 teachers with an initial professional license that is set to expire June 30, 2019, due to the failure  
18 to fulfill the licensure examination requirements pursuant to G.S. 115C-270.15, shall be granted  
19 an extension until June 30, 2020.

20           **SECTION 1.4.** The State Board shall comply with G.S. 115C-270.15(d), as enacted  
21 by this act, beginning with applicants for teacher licensure on or after July 1, 2019.

## 22 **PART II. MODIFICATIONS TO OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE APPLICANTS**

23           **SECTION 2.1.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a) reads as rewritten:

24           "(a) Teacher Licenses. – The State Board shall adopt rules for the issuance of the following  
25 classes of teacher licenses, including required levels of preparation for each classification:

26           ...

27           (7)       Transitional license or TL. – A three-year nonrenewable license issued to an  
28           individual who holds current teacher licensure in another state that is in good  
29           standing. A transitional license shall only be requested by a local board of  
30           education. The individual may begin the application process to meet the  
31           requirements for a continuing professional license as an out-of-state applicant  
32           while holding the transitional license.

33           ...."

34           **SECTION 2.2.** G.S. 115C-270.25 reads as rewritten:

35           "**§ 115C-270.25. Out-of-state license applicants.**

36           Initial applications for a continuing professional license from an individual with an  
37           out-of-state teacher's license shall require the applicant to provide evidence of that teacher's  
38           effectiveness, when available, as measured by the evaluation system used in that applicant's state  
39           of current licensure at the time of application, including any growth measures included in that  
40           evaluation system. Applications that include the evidence of that educator's effectiveness shall  
41           be prioritized for review over initial applications from applicants with out-of-state licenses that  
42           do not include that information. An individual who does not include evidence of that teacher's  
43           effectiveness with the initial application shall only be eligible for an IPL; a TL until the teacher  
44           has completed three years of licensed teaching in North Carolina."

45           **SECTION 2.3.** G.S. 115C-302.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

46           "(b3) Pay for Teachers with a Transitional License. – Notwithstanding any other provision  
47           of law, a local board of education that employs a teacher who is licensed with a three-year  
48           transitional license pursuant to G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(7) shall determine experience credit for that  
49           teacher for the purposes of paying the teacher with State-allotted funds in accordance with the  
50           State salary schedule for teachers during the first year of the license. Notwithstanding subsection  
51

1 (f) of this section, the local board of education and the teacher shall not be responsible for the  
2 repayment of any overpayment of State funds due to misapplication of experience credit for the  
3 State salary schedule when the determination of experience credit was done in good faith based  
4 on the teacher's prior employment record and the guidelines established by the State Board of  
5 Education for awarding experience credit. A teacher paid in accordance with this subsection shall  
6 not be entitled to the same pay on the State salary schedule for teachers for subsequent school  
7 years after the State Board determines the appropriate experience credit for that teacher."

8 **SECTION 2.4.** G.S. 93B-15.1(i) reads as rewritten:

9 "(i) For the purposes of this section, the State Board of Education shall be considered an  
10 occupational licensing board when issuing teacher licenses under Article 17E of Subchapter V  
11 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes. In addition to the provisions for licensure provided by  
12 this section, a local board of education may request a three-year transitional license for a military  
13 spouse who holds a current teaching license in another jurisdiction pursuant to  
14 G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(7)."

### 15 16 **PART III. MODIFICATIONS TO LIFETIME TEACHING LICENSES**

17 **SECTION 3.1.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

18 "(4) Lifetime license. – A license issued to a teacher after ~~50~~30 or more years of  
19 teaching as a licensed teacher that requires no renewal."

20 **SECTION 3.2.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(6) is repealed.

21 **SECTION 3.3.** G.S. 115C-270.30(b)(3) is repealed.

### 22 23 **PART IV. EMERGENCY RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY**

24 **SECTION 4.** As soon as practicable, and no more than 10 calendar days from the  
25 effective date of this act, the State Board of Education shall adopt emergency rules for the  
26 implementation of this act in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.1A. This section does not require  
27 any rule making if not otherwise required by law.

### 28 29 **PART V. EFFECTIVE DATE**

30 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law and, except as otherwise  
31 provided in this act, applies beginning with applications for teacher licensure submitted on or  
32 after the eighteenth day following the effective date of the act.