

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 219

Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 5/1/19  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/5/19  
House Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 6/10/19  
Proposed Conference Committee Substitute S219-PCCS35298-TC-3

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:

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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.



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

4       **SECTION 1.2.** Elementary education (K-6) or special education general curriculum  
5 teachers with an initial professional license that is set to expire June 30, 2019, due to the failure  
6 to fulfill the licensure examination requirements pursuant to G.S. 115C-270.15, shall be granted  
7 an extension until June 30, 2020.

8       **SECTION 1.3.** The State Board shall comply with G.S. 115C-270.15(d), as enacted  
9 by this act, beginning with applicants for teacher licensure on or after July 1, 2019.

## 10 11 **PART II. CREATION OF LIMITED LICENSES**

12       **SECTION 2.1.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to  
13 read:

14       "(4a) Limited license. – A three-year nonrenewable license issued to an individual  
15 who meets the requirements of this subdivision. A limited license shall only  
16 be requested by the local board of education currently employing or seeking  
17 to employ the individual and shall be used for continued employment only in  
18 that local school administrative unit. The State Board shall not require  
19 individuals to demonstrate preparation through achieving a prescribed  
20 minimum score on a standardized examination for a limited license. To  
21 receive a limited license, one of the following shall be met:

22       a. IPL licensee. – Both of the following are met:

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

25           2. The local board of education submits to the State Board an  
26 affidavit stating that the teacher is currently employed by that  
27 local board, is an effective teacher, and will be encouraged to  
28 continue to pursue a CPL. The affidavit shall be signed by both  
29 the principal and superintendent for the school to which the  
30 teacher is currently assigned.

31       b. Out-of-state licensee. – Both of the following are met:

32           1. The individual holds current teacher licensure in another state  
33 that is in good standing.

34           2. The local board of education submits to the State Board an  
35 affidavit stating that the local board seeks to employ the  
36 teacher, that the teacher has been employed as a licensed  
37 teacher in another state for at least three years, and that the  
38 teacher will be encouraged to pursue an IPL or CPL, as  
39 appropriate for that teacher. The affidavit shall be signed by  
40 the superintendent for the local board of education seeking to  
41 employ the teacher."

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

43 **"§ 115C-270.25. Out-of-state license applicants.**

44       Initial applications for a continuing professional license from an individual with an  
45 out-of-state teacher's license shall require the applicant to provide evidence of that teacher's  
46 effectiveness, when available, as measured by the evaluation system used in that applicant's state  
47 of current licensure at the time of application, including any growth measures included in that  
48 evaluation system. Applications that include the evidence of that educator's effectiveness shall  
49 be prioritized for review over initial applications from applicants with out-of-state licenses that  
50 do not include that information. An individual who does not include evidence of that teacher's  
51 effectiveness with the initial application shall only be eligible for an ~~IPL~~ IPL or LL."

1           **SECTION 2.3.** G.S. 93B-15.1(i) reads as rewritten:

2           "(i) For the purposes of this section, the State Board of Education shall be considered an  
3 occupational licensing board when issuing teacher licenses under Article 17E of Subchapter V  
4 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes. In addition to the provisions for licensure provided by  
5 this section, a local board of education may request a three-year limited license for a military  
6 spouse who holds a current teaching license in another jurisdiction pursuant to  
7 G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(4a)."

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9           **PART III. PAY FOR NEWLY EMPLOYED TEACHERS WITH EXPERIENCE CREDIT**

10           **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-302.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

11           "**(b3) Pay for Newly Employed Teachers with Experience Credit.** – Notwithstanding any  
12 other provision of law, a local board of education shall determine experience credit for a teacher  
13 in that teacher's first year of employment with the board for the purposes of paying the teacher  
14 with State-allotted funds in accordance with the State salary schedule. Notwithstanding  
15 subsection (f) of this section, the local board of education and the teacher shall not be responsible  
16 for the repayment of any overpayment of State funds due to misapplication of experience credit  
17 for the State salary schedule for the first year of employment when the determination of  
18 experience credit was done in good faith based on the teacher's verified prior employment record  
19 and the guidelines established by the State Board of Education for awarding experience credit.  
20 However, a local board of education that does not use due diligence to verify prior employment  
21 will be responsible for the repayment of any overpayment of State funds. A teacher paid in  
22 accordance with this subsection (i) shall not be entitled to the same pay on the State salary  
23 schedule for teachers for subsequent years of employment after the State Board determines the  
24 appropriate experience credit for that teacher and (ii) shall not be deemed to be demoted under  
25 Part 3 of Article 22 of this Chapter if the State Board's determination of experience credit results  
26 in a reduction in salary in subsequent years of employment."

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28           **PART IV. MODIFICATIONS TO LIFETIME TEACHING LICENSES**

29           **SECTION 4.1.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

30           "(4) Lifetime license. – A license issued to a teacher after ~~50~~ 30 or more years of  
31 teaching as a licensed teacher that requires no renewal. For the purposes of  
32 this subdivision, a teacher shall be determined to have completed 30 or more  
33 years of teaching as a licensed teacher when the teacher holds a current North  
34 Carolina teaching license and has completed 30 or more years of creditable  
35 service with the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System."

36           **SECTION 4.2.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(6) is repealed.

37           **SECTION 4.3.** G.S. 115C-270.30(b)(3) is repealed.

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39           **PART V. EMERGENCY RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY**

40           **SECTION 5.** As soon as practicable, and no more than 10 calendar days from the  
41 effective date of this act, the State Board of Education shall adopt emergency rules for the  
42 implementation of this act in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.1A. This section does not require  
43 any rule making if not otherwise required by law.

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45           **PART VI. EFFECTIVE DATE**

46           **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law and, except as otherwise  
47 provided in this act, applies beginning with applications for teacher licensure submitted on or  
48 after the eighteenth day following the effective date of this act.