

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 148

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195514.3

Short Title: Streamline Teacher Access to Licensure

Sponsor(s): Representative Monica Youngblood and Others

Analyst: LaNysha Adams

Date: February 11, 2014

Bill Summary:

HB 148 amends the *School Personnel Act* to change the Level 3-B (school administrator) licensure requirements.¹

Among its provisions, the bill:

- strikes current Level 3-B licensure requirements;
- defines two new terms:
 - **“administrator’s license”** means a five-year license granted to an applicant who meets the qualifications pursuant to this section and Public Education Department (PED) rules; and
 - **“objective performance evaluation rating”** means a rating of:
 - ✓ exemplary;
 - ✓ highly effective;
 - ✓ effective;
 - ✓ minimally effective; or
 - ✓ ineffective; and
- grants an administrator’s license to an individual who:
 - completed or participated in a PED-approved administration preparation program;
 - completed at least two years of teaching; and
 - received an objective performance rating of effective or higher for a two-year period prior to applying for a license; or
 - held a Level 2 license and met the requirements for a Level 3-A license; or
 - held a Level 2 teacher’s license and, for at least four years, held the highest-ranked counselor license as provided in PED rule.

If enacted, HB 148 will become effective on July 1, 2014.

¹ In the *Public School Code*, “school administrator” means a person licensed to administer in a school district and includes school principals and central district administrators.

Fiscal Impact:

HB 148 does not contain an appropriation.

Technical Issues:

If the Level 3-B license is removed from the *School Personnel Act*, then multiple sections throughout the act need to be amended, namely 22-10A-11.1 [Alternative level two or level three licensure] and 22-10A-11.3 [Level three-B provisional licensure for school principals] NMSA 1978. Multiple sections of PED rule would also need to be amended.

Substantive Issues:

If enacted, HB 148, among its provisions:

- shortens to five years (from nine years) the granting of a Level 3-B license;
- provides, as an option rather than a requirement, that an individual hold a Level 2 teacher license or a Level 2 teacher license and, for at least years, the highest-ranked counselor license; and
- does not require a post-baccalaureate degree or National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.

Background:

In PED rule on the requirements for applying for the standard the Education Administration Pre-K to 12 license, candidates must:

- hold a Level 2 teaching license and have met all of the requirements for a Level 3-A teaching license, or hold a Level 2 teaching license and for at least four years have held a Level 3 school counselor license while working as a teacher or school counselor;
- hold a bachelor's degree and a post-baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university or hold current certification by the national board for professional teaching standards;
- have completed a PED approved administration apprenticeship program:
 - at a college or university through an educational administration program consisting of a minimum of 180 clock hours for one calendar year to include time at the beginning and end of the school year; a passing grade on the apprenticeship will verify completion of this requirement; or
 - under the supervision of a local school superintendent, private school official, charter school licensed administrator, or state agency educational administrator consisting of a minimum of 180 clock hours for one calendar year to include time at the beginning and end of the school year; the superintendent, school official, or administrator will verify that the apprenticeship has met PED's adopted competencies for educational administration; such verification will be considered completion of this requirement;
- have completed a minimum of 18 semester hours of graduate credit in an educational administration program approved by PED which addresses PED's approved functional areas and related competencies in educational administration; colleges and universities

- may offer these hours through their educational administration, educational leadership, public administration, business administration, or other appropriate departments; and
- take and pass the licensure test in administration as stated in 6.60.5, School Personnel-General Provisions, Competency Testing for Licensure, NMAC prior to the issuance of the license.

In PED rule on the requirements for applying for the Education Administration Pre-K to 12 license, there are separate requirements for candidates applying for provisional and alternative licenses.

Competency Testing for Licensure

During the May 2011 interim meeting, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) heard testimony relating to concerns that the licensure department at PED may not have been complying with provisions in current law that provide for an alternative portfolio assessment, in lieu of all or part of the New Mexico Teacher Assessments (NMTA), for candidates who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The November 15, 2011 issue of the *New Mexico Register* included the final adoption of the amended rule, 6.60.5 NMAC, which:

- establishes the NMTA as the primary acceptable examination for educator licensure in New Mexico; and
- provides exceptions to the general requirement that all teaching candidates seeking licensure must pass the NMTA with a score of at least 240, including exceptions which address individuals seeking an alternative testing arrangement because they are deaf, or hard of hearing.

The NMTA for the Education Administration Pre-K to 12 license is the Content Knowledge Assessment for Educational Administrator.

The Content Knowledge Assessment for Educational Administrator test consists of 100 selected-response question divided into four subareas with 12 competencies. The four subareas include:

- foundations of educational leadership;
- promoting continuous school improvement;
- instructional leadership; and
- managing the school organization, operations, and resources.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

HB 67a *Phased Minimum Teacher Salary Increases*

HB 276 *Teacher Licensure Advancement*

HB 289 *Teacher Competency for Advancement*

SB 104 *Streamline Teacher Administrative Licensure (Identical)*