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HOUSE BILL 74

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; REQUIRING KNOWLEDGE OF THE  
SCIENCE OF TEACHING READING TO BE PART OF THE TEACHER  
ASSESSMENTS EXAMINATION FOR ELEMENTARY LICENSURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1.** Section 22-10A-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,  
Chapter 153, Section 38, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-10A-7. LEVEL ONE LICENSURE.--

A. A level one license is a provisional five-year  
license for beginning teachers that requires as a condition of  
licensure that the licensee undergo a formal mentorship program  
for at least one full school year and an annual intensive  
performance evaluation by a school administrator for at least  
three full school years before applying for a level two  
license.

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1           B. Each school district, in accordance with  
2 department rules, shall provide for the mentorship and  
3 evaluation of level one teachers. At the end of each year and  
4 at the end of the license period, the level one teacher shall  
5 be evaluated for competency. If the teacher fails to  
6 demonstrate satisfactory progress and competence annually, the  
7 teacher may be terminated as provided in Section 22-10A-24 NMSA  
8 1978. If the teacher has not demonstrated satisfactory  
9 progress and competence by the end of the five-year period, the  
10 teacher shall not be granted a level two license.

11           C. Except in exigent circumstances defined by  
12 department rule, a level one license shall not be extended  
13 beyond the initial period.

14           D. The department shall issue a standard level one  
15 license to an applicant who is at least eighteen years of age  
16 who:

17                   (1) holds a baccalaureate degree from an  
18 accredited educational institution;

19                   (2) has successfully completed a department-  
20 approved teacher preparation program from a nationally  
21 accredited or state-approved educational institution;

22                   (3) has passed the New Mexico teacher  
23 assessments examination, including for elementary licensure  
24 beginning July 1, 2012, a rigorous assessment of the  
25 candidate's knowledge of the science of teaching reading; and

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1 (4) meets other qualifications for level one  
2 licensure, including clearance of the required background  
3 check.

4 E. The department shall issue an alternative level  
5 one license to an applicant who meets the requirements of  
6 Section 22-10A-8 NMSA 1978.

7 F. The department shall establish competencies and  
8 qualifications for specific grade levels, types and subject  
9 areas of level one licensure, including early childhood,  
10 elementary, middle school, secondary, special education and  
11 vocational education.

12 G. Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, with  
13 the adoption by the department of a highly objective uniform  
14 statewide standard of evaluation for level one teachers, the  
15 minimum salary for a level one teacher shall be thirty thousand  
16 dollars (\$30,000) for a standard nine and one-half month  
17 contract.

18 H. Teachers who hold level one licenses on the  
19 effective date of the 2003 act must be evaluated by the end of  
20 the 2006-2007 school year."

21 SECTION 2. Section 22-10A-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,  
22 Chapter 153, Section 39, as amended) is amended to read:

23 "22-10A-8. ALTERNATIVE LEVEL ONE LICENSE.--

24 A. The department shall issue an alternative level  
25 one license to a person who is at least eighteen years of age

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1 and who has:

2 (1) completed a baccalaureate degree at an  
3 accredited institution of higher education, including  
4 completion of a minimum of thirty credit hours at either the  
5 undergraduate or graduate level in the subject area of  
6 instruction for which the person is applying for a license;

7 (2) completed a master's degree at an  
8 accredited institution of higher education, including  
9 completion of a minimum of twelve graduate credit hours in the  
10 subject area of instruction for which the person is applying  
11 for a license; or

12 (3) completed a doctoral or law degree at an  
13 accredited institution of higher education; and

14 (4) passed the New Mexico teacher assessments  
15 examination, including for elementary licensure beginning July  
16 1, 2012, a rigorous assessment of the candidate's knowledge of  
17 the science of teaching reading; and

18 (5) completed a minimum of twelve semester  
19 hours of instruction in teaching principles in a program  
20 approved by the department; or

21 (6) demonstrated to the department, in  
22 conjunction with the school district or state agency, that the  
23 person has met the department-approved competencies for level  
24 one teachers that correspond to the grade level that will be  
25 taught.

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