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SENATE BILL 417

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Craig W. Brandt

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; CREATING A VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
LICENSURE TRACK FOR TEACHERS.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of the School Personnel Act is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] PRELIMINARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION LICENSE--
MENTORSHIP REQUIREMENT--REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE.--

A. A preliminary vocational education license is a
provisional three-year license for beginning or new vocational
or career technical education 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 each year the licensee holds a preliminary

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1 vocational education license before applying for a professional
2 vocational education license.

3 B. Each public school, in accordance with
4 department rules, shall provide for the mentorship and
5 evaluation of preliminary vocational or career technical
6 education teachers. At the end of each year and at the end of
7 the license period, the teacher shall be evaluated for
8 competency. If the preliminary vocational or career technical
9 education teacher fails to demonstrate satisfactory progress
10 and competence annually, the teacher may be terminated as
11 provided in Section 22-10A-24 NMSA 1978. If the preliminary
12 vocational or career technical education teacher has not
13 demonstrated satisfactory progress and competence by the end of
14 the three-year provisional period, the teacher shall not be
15 granted a professional vocational education license.

16 C. The department shall grant a preliminary
17 vocational education license to an applicant who is at least
18 eighteen years of age who:

19 (1) has five years or more of experience in
20 the vocational field in which the person teaches; and

21 (2) meets other qualifications for preliminary
22 vocational education licensure, including clearance of the
23 department-required background check."

24 SECTION 2. A new section of the School Personnel Act is
25 enacted to read:

.224856.1

1 "[NEW MATERIAL] PROFESSIONAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

2 LICENSE--QUALIFICATIONS.--

3 A. A professional vocational education license is a
4 nine-year license granted to a vocational or career technical
5 education teacher who meets the qualifications provided in
6 Subsection B of this section and who annually demonstrates
7 vocational or career technical education instructional leader
8 competencies. If a professional vocational education licensed
9 teacher does not meet essential competency in a given school
10 year, the school district shall provide the teacher with
11 additional professional development and peer intervention
12 during the following school year. If by the end of that school
13 year the teacher fails to demonstrate essential competency, a
14 school district may choose not to contract with the teacher to
15 teach in the classroom.

16 B. The department shall grant a professional
17 vocational education license to an applicant who has
18 successfully taught at least one year, but no more than three
19 years, with a preliminary vocational education license, and
20 who:

21 (1) completes an advanced professional
22 development program consisting of at least one hundred fifty
23 hours of department-approved professional development in
24 instructional competencies provided by the public school in
25 which the licensee teaches;

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(2) provides documentation from an accredited higher education institution of the applicant's eligibility to teach dual credit courses at the post-secondary level in the field in which the person is teaching; or

(3) completes a department-approved career technical education training certificate course of study that is a minimum of sixteen credit hours at an accredited higher education institution."

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2023.