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HOUSE BILL 277

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

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and Yanira Gurrola and Willie D. Madrid

AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSURE; EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE
COMPUTER SCIENCE LICENSE ENDORSEMENT TO ALL LICENSED TEACHERS;
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22-10A-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
Chapter 33, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-10A-6. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE.--

A. The department shall require a person seeking
licensure or reciprocity in elementary, special, early
childhood or secondary education to have completed the
following minimum requirements in the college of arts and
sciences:

- (1) nine semester hours in communication;
- (2) six semester hours in mathematics;

1 (3) eight semester hours in laboratory
2 science;

3 (4) nine semester hours in social and
4 behavioral science; and

5 (5) nine semester hours in humanities and fine
6 arts.

7 B. In addition to the requirements specified in
8 Subsections A and C of this section, the department shall
9 require that a person seeking standard or alternative
10 elementary licensure shall have completed six hours of reading
11 courses, and a person seeking standard or alternative secondary
12 licensure shall have completed three hours of reading courses
13 in subject matter content. The department shall establish
14 requirements that provide a reasonable period of time to comply
15 with the provisions of this subsection.

16 C. Except for licensure by reciprocity, the
17 department shall require, prior to initial licensure, no less
18 than sixteen weeks of student teaching, a portion of which
19 shall occur in the first thirty credit hours taken in the
20 college of education and shall be under the direct supervision
21 of a teacher and a portion of which shall occur in the
22 student's senior year with the student teacher being directly
23 responsible for the classroom.

24 D. Nothing in this section shall preclude the
25 department from establishing or accepting equivalent

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1 requirements for purposes of reciprocal licensure or minimum
2 requirements for alternative licensure.

3 E. Vocational teacher preparatory programs may be
4 exempt from Subsections A through C of this section upon a
5 determination by the department that other licensure
6 requirements are more appropriate for vocational teacher
7 preparatory programs.

8 F. Before December 31, [~~2021~~] 2024, the department
9 shall create a license endorsement in [~~secondary~~] computer
10 science available to all teachers who hold a valid license and
11 demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in computer science as
12 determined by the department. The department shall consult
13 with computer science education experts with experience in
14 creating or supporting computer science endorsement pathways
15 when developing computer science endorsement requirements."

16 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred fifty thousand
17 dollars (\$150,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
18 public education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2025
19 to expand the scope of the computer science license endorsement
20 to all licensed teachers. Any unexpended or unencumbered
21 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2025 shall revert
22 to the general fund.