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HOUSE BILL 347

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

INTRODUCED BY

Teresa A. Zanetti

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ADDING REQUIREMENTS FOR GIFTED  
EDUCATION TEACHERS; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE  
SCHOOL PERSONNEL ACT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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] REQUIREMENTS FOR GIFTED EDUCATION  
TEACHERS.--

A. The department shall establish an assessment  
examination and competencies for gifted education teachers.

B. Beginning January 1, 2010, gifted education  
teachers shall be highly qualified in gifted education and  
shall demonstrate the competencies for gifted education  
teachers.

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1 C. A gifted education teacher may meet the  
2 requirement of being highly qualified by:

3 (1) completing a minimum of twelve graduate  
4 hours of courses in the teaching of gifted students from an  
5 accredited college or university;

6 (2) passing a state-approved assessment  
7 examination for gifted education; or

8 (3) completing three or more years of gifted  
9 education teaching and successfully completing a portfolio  
10 process reviewed by two or more individuals who already meet  
11 the highly qualified requirement for gifted education teachers.

12 D. For the purpose of this section, "gifted  
13 education teacher" means a teacher who provides special  
14 instruction to a student who qualifies as gifted in accordance  
15 with Sections 22-13-6 and 22-13-6.1 NMSA 1978."

16 Section 2. Section 22-10A-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,  
17 Chapter 33, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "22-10A-6. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE.--

19 A. The [~~state board~~] department shall require a  
20 person seeking licensure or reciprocity in elementary or  
21 secondary education to have completed the following minimum  
22 requirements in the college of arts and sciences:

23 (1) twelve hours in English;

24 (2) twelve hours in history, including  
25 American history and western civilization;

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1 (3) six hours in mathematics;

2 (4) six hours in government, economics or  
3 sociology;

4 (5) twelve hours in science, including  
5 biology, chemistry, physics, geology, zoology and botany; and

6 (6) six hours in fine arts.

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

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

25 D. Nothing in this section shall preclude the

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1     ~~[state board]~~ department from establishing or accepting  
2     equivalent requirements for purposes of reciprocal licensure or  
3     minimum requirements for alternative licensure.

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

9             F. In addition to the requirements specified in  
10     Subsections A through C of this section, the department shall  
11     require three hours in gifted education instruction for persons  
12     seeking licensure in 2010 and subsequent years."

13             Section 3. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred thousand dollars  
14     (\$200,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the public  
15     education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 and  
16     subsequent fiscal years to increase the gifted consultant  
17     position in the department to a full-time position, to provide  
18     for professional development of teachers to meet the  
19     requirements for a gifted education teacher, to increase the  
20     number of highly qualified gifted education teachers and to  
21     provide for an annual summer institute on gifted education.  
22     Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of  
23     a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

24             Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
25     provisions of this act is July 1, 2008.

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