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HOUSE BILL 304

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; REQUIRING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO POST ON ITS WEB SITE THE NEW MEXICO TEACHER ASSESSMENTS EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR TEACHERS WHO ARE ISSUED LEVEL ONE AND ALTERNATIVE LEVEL ONE LICENSES AND THE NAMES OF THE ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FROM WHICH THESE TEACHERS RECEIVED DEGREES; RECONCILING MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS TO THE SAME SECTION OF LAW IN LAWS 2011.

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

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1 for at least one full school year and an annual intensive
2 performance evaluation by a school administrator for at least
3 three full school years before applying for a level two
4 license.

5 B. Each school district, in accordance with
6 department rules, shall provide for the mentorship and
7 evaluation of level one teachers. At the end of each year and
8 at the end of the license period, the level one teacher shall
9 be evaluated for competency. If the teacher fails to
10 demonstrate satisfactory progress and competence annually, the
11 teacher may be terminated as provided in Section 22-10A-24 NMSA
12 1978. If the teacher has not demonstrated satisfactory
13 progress and competence by the end of the five-year period, the
14 teacher shall not be granted a level two license.

15 C. Except in exigent circumstances defined by
16 department rule, a level one license shall not be extended
17 beyond the initial period.

18 D. The department shall issue a standard level one
19 license to an applicant who is at least eighteen years of age
20 who:

21 (1) holds a baccalaureate degree from an
22 accredited educational institution;

23 (2) has successfully completed a department-
24 approved teacher preparation program from a nationally
25 accredited or state-approved educational institution;

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1 (3) has passed the New Mexico teacher
2 assessments examination, including for elementary licensure
3 beginning January 1, 2013, a rigorous assessment of the
4 candidate's knowledge of the science of teaching reading; and

5 (4) meets other qualifications for level one
6 licensure, including clearance of the required background
7 check.

8 E. The department shall post on its web site the
9 results of a rigorous assessment of an elementary licensure
10 candidate's knowledge of the science of teaching reading:

11 (1) including the name of the nationally
12 accredited or state-approved educational institution, but not
13 the candidate's name; and

14 (2) within six weeks of the examination.

15 [~~E.~~] F. The department shall issue an alternative
16 level one license to an applicant who meets the requirements of
17 Section 22-10A-8 NMSA 1978.

18 [~~F.~~] G. The department shall establish competencies
19 and qualifications for specific grade levels, types and subject
20 areas of level one licensure, including early childhood,
21 elementary, middle school, secondary, special education and
22 vocational education.

23 [~~G.~~] H. Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year,
24 with the adoption by the department of a highly objective
25 uniform statewide standard of evaluation for level one

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1 teachers, the minimum salary for a level one teacher shall be
2 thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for a standard nine and one-
3 half month contract.

4 [H.] I. Teachers who hold level one licenses on the
5 effective date of the 2003 act must be evaluated by the end of
6 the 2006-2007 school year."

7 **SECTION 2.** Section 22-10A-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
8 Chapter 153, Section 39, as amended by Laws 2011, Chapter 36,
9 Section 1 and by Laws 2011, Chapter 95, Section 2) is amended
10 to read:

11 "22-10A-8. ALTERNATIVE LEVEL ONE LICENSE.--

12 A. The department shall issue an alternative level
13 one license to a person who is at least eighteen years of age
14 and who:

15 (1) has completed a baccalaureate degree at an
16 accredited institution of higher education and has received a
17 passing score on a state-approved subject-area examination in
18 the subject area of instruction for which the person is
19 applying for a license; or

20 (2) has completed a master's degree at an
21 accredited institution of higher education, including
22 completion of a minimum of twelve graduate credit hours in the
23 subject area of instruction for which the person is applying
24 for a license; or

25 (3) has completed a doctoral or law degree at

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1 an accredited institution of higher education; and

2 (4) has passed the New Mexico teacher
3 assessments examination, including for elementary licensure
4 beginning January 1, 2013, a rigorous assessment of the
5 candidate's knowledge of the science of teaching reading; and

6 (5) within two years of beginning teaching,
7 completes a minimum of twelve semester hours of instruction in
8 teaching principles in a program approved by the department; or

9 (6) [~~demonstrated~~] demonstrates to the
10 department, in conjunction with the school district or state
11 agency, that the person has met the department-approved
12 competencies for level one teachers that correspond to the
13 grade level that will be taught.

14 B. A degree or examination referred to in
15 Subsection A of this section shall correspond to the subject
16 area of instruction and the particular grade level that will
17 enable the applicant to teach in a competent manner as
18 determined by the department.

19 C. The department shall post on its web site the
20 results of a rigorous assessment of an alternative elementary
21 licensure candidate's knowledge of the science of teaching
22 reading:

23 (1) including the name of the nationally
24 accredited or state-approved educational institution, but not
25 the candidate's name; and

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(2) within six weeks of the examination.

~~[G-]~~ D. An alternative level one teacher shall participate in the same mentorship, evaluation and other professional development requirements as other level one teachers.

~~[D-]~~ E. A school district or state agency shall not discriminate against a teacher on the basis that the teacher holds an alternative level one license.

~~[E-]~~ F. The department shall provide by rule for training and other requirements to support the use of unlicensed content area experts as resources in classrooms, team teaching, on-line instruction, curriculum development and other purposes."