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AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING THE SCHOOL PERSONNEL ACT TO
CHANGE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS SEEKING LICENSURE OR
RECIPROCITY IN ELEMENTARY, SPECIAL, EARLY CHILDHOOD OR
SECONDARY EDUCATION.

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;
- (3) eight semester hours in laboratory
science;
- (4) nine semester hours in social and
behavioral science; and
- (5) nine semester hours in humanities and
fine arts.

B. In addition to the requirements specified in
Subsections A and C of this section, the department shall

1 require that a person seeking standard or alternative
2 elementary licensure shall have completed six hours of
3 reading courses, and a person seeking standard or alternative
4 secondary licensure shall have completed three hours of
5 reading courses in subject matter content. The department
6 shall establish requirements that provide a reasonable period
7 of time to comply with the provisions of this subsection.

8 C. Except for licensure by reciprocity, the
9 department shall require, prior to initial licensure, no less
10 than sixteen weeks of student teaching, a portion of which
11 shall occur in the first thirty credit hours taken in the
12 college of education and shall be under the direct
13 supervision of a teacher and a portion of which shall occur
14 in the student's senior year with the student teacher being
15 directly responsible for the classroom.

16 D. Nothing in this section shall preclude the
17 department from establishing or accepting equivalent
18 requirements for purposes of reciprocal licensure or minimum
19 requirements for alternative licensure.

20 E. Vocational teacher preparatory programs may be
21 exempt from Subsections A through C of this section upon a
22 determination by the department that other licensure
23 requirements are more appropriate for vocational teacher
24 preparatory programs."

25 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the

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provisions of this act is July 1, 2016. _____