

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10073-MT-32 (01/26)

Short Title: Modify Educator Licensure Requirements. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives K. Hall, Conrad, L. Bell, and Floyd (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXPAND ACTIVITIES QUALIFYING FOR CONTINUING LICENSURE OF RETIRED TEACHERS, EXEMPT MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS, AND ALLOW SCHOOL BOARDS TO HIRE RETIRED EDUCATORS TO SERVE AS INTERIM PRINCIPALS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-296(b)(1) reads as rewritten:

"(1) Licensure standards.

a. The licensure program shall provide for initial licensure after completion of preservice training, continuing licensure after three years of teaching experience, and license renewal every five years thereafter, until the retirement of the teacher. The last license renewal received prior to retirement shall remain in effect for five years after retirement. The licensure program shall also provide for licensure based on teaching experience as follows:

1. Continuing licensure of a teacher as defined in G.S. 115C-325(6) who has met all of the following requirements: ~~(i)~~

I. The teacher has 30 or more years of teaching experience in North Carolina upon the date of the teacher's retirement. ~~retirement of the teacher and (ii)~~

II. The teacher has been employed by a local school administrative unit after retirement as any of the following:

A. ~~served as a~~ substitute teacher at least once every three years since retirement. ~~teacher.~~

B. A part-time position providing any of the following services: classroom instruction, tutoring, mentoring teachers, modeling demonstration lessons for teachers, writing curricula, developing and leading staff development programs for teachers, or working in after-school programs.

2. Lifetime licensure after 50 years of teaching.

b. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall evaluate and



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1 develop enhanced requirements for continuing licensure. The new
 2 requirements shall reflect more rigorous standards for continuing
 3 licensure and shall be aligned with high-quality professional
 4 development programs that reflect State priorities for improving student
 5 achievement. Standards for continuing licensure shall include the
 6 following:

- 7 1. For all teachers, at least eight continuing education credits with
 8 at least three credits required in a teacher's academic subject
 9 area.
- 10 2. For elementary and middle school teachers, at least three
 11 continuing education credits related to literacy. Literacy renewal
 12 credits shall include evidence-based assessment, diagnosis, and
 13 intervention strategies for students not demonstrating reading
 14 proficiency. Oral language, phonemic and phonological
 15 awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension
 16 shall be addressed in literacy-related activities leading to license
 17 renewal for elementary school teachers.
- 18 3. For retired teachers ~~servng as substitutes~~ seeking a continuing
 19 license who qualify under sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision,
 20 at least 640 hours of documented ~~substitute teaching employment~~
 21 in a local school administrative unit each renewal cycle and
 22 eight hours of annual professional development approved by a
 23 local school administrative unit.

24"

25 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-296(b)(1) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision to
 26 read:

- 27 "e. A member of the General Assembly is exempt from the continuing
 28 education credit requirements for teachers during any five-year licensure
 29 renewal cycle in which the member serves a term or some portion
 30 thereof in the General Assembly as long as the member notifies the
 31 Department of Public Instruction of the exemption during that five-year
 32 licensure renewal cycle."

33 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-284 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

34 "(b2) Notwithstanding the requirements for licensure as a professional educator, a local
 35 board of education may select a retired principal, retired assistant principal, or retired teacher to
 36 serve as an interim principal for the remainder of any school year regardless of the school
 37 administrator certification status of the retired principal, retired assistant principal, or retired
 38 teacher."

39 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law. Section 1 of this act applies to
 40 applications for continuing licensure on or after that date. Section 3 of this act applies beginning
 41 with the 2017-2018 school year.