

1 SENATE BILL 418

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gay G. Kernan

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSURE; AMENDING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE
12 TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT OF LICENSURE CANDIDATES'
13 CONTENT KNOWLEDGE IN CERTAIN AREAS; ALLOWING LICENSURE
14 CANDIDATES' PASSING GRADES TO BE VALID FOR FIVE YEARS FROM THE
15 DATE THAT THE CANDIDATE TAKES THE TEST.

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

18 SECTION 1. Section 22-10A-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
19 Chapter 153, Section 38, as amended) is amended to read:

20 "22-10A-7. LEVEL ONE LICENSURE.--

21 A. A level one license is a provisional five-year
22 license for beginning teachers that requires as a condition of
23 licensure that the licensee undergo a formal mentorship program
24 for at least one full school year and an annual intensive
25 performance evaluation by a school administrator for at least

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1 three full school years before applying for a level two
2 license.

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

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

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

19 (1) holds a baccalaureate degree from an
20 accredited educational institution;

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

24 (3) has passed the New Mexico teacher
25 assessments examination, including for elementary licensure

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1 ~~[beginning January 1, 2013]~~, a rigorous assessment of the
2 candidate's knowledge of the science of teaching reading and,
3 beginning January 1, 2015, individual, subject-matter
4 assessments in language arts, mathematics, science and social
5 studies; provided that a candidate's passing grade on each
6 individual, subject-matter assessment shall be valid for a
7 period of five years from the time that the candidate takes the
8 test; and

9 (4) meets other qualifications for level one
10 licensure, including clearance of the required background
11 check.

12 E. The department shall issue an alternative level
13 one license to an applicant who meets the requirements of
14 Section 22-10A-8 NMSA 1978.

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

20 G. ~~[Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, with~~
21 ~~the adoption by the department of a highly objective uniform~~
22 ~~statewide standard of evaluation for level one teachers]~~ The
23 minimum salary for a level one teacher shall be thirty thousand
24 dollars (\$30,000) for a standard nine and one-half month
25 contract.

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