

1 HOUSE BILL 266

2 **55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Natalie Figueroa

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; CHANGING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN
12 ALTERNATIVE LEVEL ONE TEACHING LICENSE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
13 TEACHERS; GRANDFATHERING CURRENT LICENSEES.

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

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

20 "22-10A-8. ALTERNATIVE LEVEL ONE LICENSE.--

21 A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this
22 section, the department shall issue an alternative level one
23 license to a person who is at least eighteen years of age and
24 who:

25 (1) has completed a baccalaureate degree at an

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1 accredited institution of higher education and has received a
2 passing score on a state-approved subject-area examination in
3 the subject area of instruction for which the person is
4 applying for a license; or

5 (2) has completed a master's degree at an
6 accredited institution of higher education, including
7 completion of a minimum of twelve graduate credit hours in the
8 subject area of instruction for which the person is applying
9 for a license; or

10 (3) has completed a doctoral or law degree at
11 an accredited institution of higher education; and

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

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

19 (6) [~~demonstrated~~] demonstrates to the
20 department, in conjunction with the school district or state
21 agency, that the person has met the department-approved
22 competencies for level one teachers that correspond to the
23 grade level that will be taught.

24 B. A person seeking an alternative level one
25 special education license to teach students with disabilities

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1 shall be at least eighteen years of age and meet the
2 educational and assessment requirements of Paragraphs (1)
3 through (4) of Subsection A of this section, as applicable. In
4 addition, the person shall serve a fifteen-week apprenticeship
5 under a level three-A special education teacher while taking
6 related and interwoven coursework at a post-secondary
7 educational institution that is designed to connect pedagogical
8 theory with teaching practice, including:

9 (1) lesson planning;

10 (2) classroom and behavior management for
11 students with special needs;

12 (3) learning theory;

13 (4) foundations of special education; and

14 (5) culturally and linguistically relevant
15 teaching techniques.

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

21 [~~C.~~] D. An alternative level one or alternative
22 level one special education teacher shall participate in the
23 same mentorship, evaluation and other professional development
24 requirements as other level one teachers.

25 [~~D.~~] E. A school district or state agency shall not

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1 discriminate against a teacher on the basis that the teacher
2 holds an alternative level one license.

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

8 SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] SAVING CLAUSE.--Persons holding
9 alternative level one special education licenses on July 1,
10 2022 are not required to apply for a new license.

11 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
12 provisions of this act is July 1, 2022.