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HOUSE BILL 297

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Anita Gonzales and Debra M. Sariñana and Tanya Mirabal Moya

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; PROVIDING FOR LICENSURE
ENDORSEMENT IN COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR ALL GRADES.

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

1 science;

2 (4) nine semester hours in social and
3 behavioral science; and

4 (5) nine semester hours in humanities and fine
5 arts.

6 B. In addition to the requirements specified in
7 Subsections A and C of this section, the department shall
8 require that a person seeking standard or alternative
9 elementary licensure shall have completed six hours of reading
10 courses, and a person seeking standard or alternative secondary
11 licensure shall have completed three hours of reading courses
12 in subject matter content. The department shall establish
13 requirements that provide a reasonable period of time to comply
14 with the provisions of this subsection.

15 C. Except for licensure by reciprocity, the
16 department shall require, prior to initial licensure, no less
17 than sixteen weeks of student teaching, a portion of which
18 shall occur in the first thirty credit hours taken in the
19 college of education and shall be under the direct supervision
20 of a teacher and a portion of which shall occur in the
21 student's senior year with the student teacher being directly
22 responsible for the classroom.

23 D. Nothing in this section shall preclude the
24 department from establishing or accepting equivalent
25 requirements for purposes of reciprocal licensure or minimum

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1 requirements for alternative licensure.

2 E. Vocational teacher preparatory programs may be
3 exempt from Subsections A through C of this section upon a
4 determination by the department that other licensure
5 requirements are more appropriate for vocational teacher
6 preparatory programs.

7 F. ~~[Before December 31, 2021, the department shall~~
8 ~~create a license endorsement in secondary computer science~~
9 ~~available to all teachers who hold a]~~ Teachers seeking to add
10 an endorsement for computer science on a valid license [and]
11 shall demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in computer
12 science [as determined by the department]. The department
13 shall consult with computer science education experts with
14 experience in creating or supporting computer science
15 endorsement pathways when developing computer science
16 endorsement requirements. The endorsement requires the teacher
17 to have:

18 (1) earned fifteen post-secondary course
19 credits in computer science;

20 (2) passed the department-approved teacher
21 licensure examination for computer science;

22 (3) a minimum of two years of work experience
23 in an industry related to computer science, which the applicant
24 must validate using a verifiable list of references;

25 (4) an industry certification in a field

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1 related to computer science, which the applicant must validate
2 using official documentation of the industry certification;

3 (5) completed sixty hours of professional
4 development within the three years immediately prior to
5 applying for a computer science endorsement, which the
6 applicant must validate using documentation from the
7 organization that provided the professional development,
8 including the number of hours of each training; or

9 (6) three or more years of computer science
10 teaching experience, including computer coding program
11 structure in one or more languages, debugging computer
12 programs, computer modeling and skills relevant to applications
13 such as data management, graphics and text processing, which
14 the applicant must validate with a letter signed by a school
15 district administrator, charter school administrator or school
16 principal."

17 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred fifty thousand
18 dollars (\$250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
19 public education department for expenditure in fiscal years
20 2026 and 2027 for professional development for teachers who
21 want a computer science endorsement or want to maintain the
22 endorsement. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining
23 at the end of fiscal year 2027 shall revert to the general
24 fund.