

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 155

Short Title: Modify Educator Licensure Requirements. (Public)

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

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Education - K-12

February 22, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO EXPAND ACTIVITIES QUALIFYING FOR CONTINUING LICENSURE OF
3 RETIRED TEACHERS, EXEMPT MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR
4 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS, AND ALLOW
5 SCHOOL BOARDS TO HIRE RETIRED EDUCATORS TO SERVE AS INTERIM
6 PRINCIPALS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

9 "(1) Licensure standards.

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 2. Lifetime licensure after 50 years of teaching.



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1 b. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of
2 Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall evaluate and
3 develop enhanced requirements for continuing licensure. The new
4 requirements shall reflect more rigorous standards for continuing
5 licensure and shall be aligned with high-quality professional
6 development programs that reflect State priorities for improving student
7 achievement. Standards for continuing licensure shall include the
8 following:

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

26 "

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

28 read:

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

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

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

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