

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 155
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/21/17

Short Title: Modify Educator Licensure Requirements. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

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 FROM
4 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS, AND ALLOW
5 SCHOOL BOARDS TO HIRE RETIRED PRINCIPALS AND ASSISTANT
6 PRINCIPALS TO SERVE AS INTERIM 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
12 years of teaching experience, and license renewal every five years
13 thereafter, until the retirement of the teacher. The last license renewal
14 received prior to retirement shall remain in effect for five years after
15 retirement. The licensure program shall also provide for licensure
16 based on teaching experience as follows:

17 1. ~~Continuing-Retirement~~ licensure of a teacher as defined in
18 ~~G.S. 115C-325(6)~~ G.S. 115C-325.1(6) who has met all of the
19 following requirements:-(i)

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

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

27 A. -served as a A substitute teacher at least once
28 every three years since retirement.teacher.

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

36 2. Lifetime licensure after 50 years of teaching.



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- b. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall evaluate and develop enhanced requirements for continuing licensure. The new requirements shall reflect more rigorous standards for continuing licensure and shall be aligned with high-quality professional development programs that reflect State priorities for improving student achievement. Standards for continuing licensure shall include the following:
 - 1. For all teachers, at least eight continuing education credits with at least three credits required in a teacher's academic subject area.
 - 2. For elementary and middle school teachers, at least three continuing education credits related to literacy. Literacy renewal credits shall include evidence-based assessment, diagnosis, and intervention strategies for students not demonstrating reading proficiency. Oral language, phonemic and phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension shall be addressed in literacy-related activities leading to license renewal for elementary school teachers.
 - 3. For ~~retired~~ teachers ~~servng as substitutes~~ seeking a ~~continuing retirement~~ license who qualify under sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision, at least 640 hours of documented ~~substitute teaching~~ employment in a local school administrative unit each renewal cycle and eight hours of annual professional development approved by a local school administrative unit.

...."

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

read:

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

SECTION 3. G.S. 115C-284(e) reads as rewritten:

"(e) It shall be unlawful for any board of education to employ or keep in service any principal or supervisor who neither holds nor is qualified to hold a ~~certificate~~ license in compliance with the provision of the law or in accordance with the regulations of the State Board of Education. However, a local board of education may select a retired principal or retired assistant principal to serve as an interim principal for the remainder of any school year regardless of licensure status."

SECTION 4. Section 1 of this act applies to applications for retirement licensure on or after that date. Section 3 of this act applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.