

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0824.02 Lindy Schaible x4215

SENATE BILL 26-126

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Rich,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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Senate Committees  
Education

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING TEACHER LICENSURE FOR OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS.

Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Current law provides that the department of education (department) may issue a professional teacher license to a teacher with at least 3 years of successful experience in teaching within the previous 7 years in another state or country for which the department has granted reciprocity. The bill eliminates the requirement that an applicant have the successful experience in teaching within the previous 7 years. The bill retains the requirement of at least 3 years of successful experience in teaching.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

The bill requires that the state board of education enter into interstate reciprocity agreements with states that participate in the "Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact" (Compact) and that, pursuant to the agreements, the department issue an initial teacher license within 30 days of receiving a complete teacher license application from a person licensed by a state that participates in the Compact when the applicant passes a criminal history record check and meets specified requirements, including holding a current teacher license issued by another state that required completion of a bachelor's degree or higher and a state-approved teacher preparation program or alternative certification program. The bill also requires that the department publish an annual table showing how out-of-state licenses correspond to Colorado endorsement areas. The bill repeals these requirements upon notification that the Compact's rules are in effect.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-201, **amend**  
3 (3)(b)(I)(B) and (3)(d); and **add** (6) as follows:

4 **22-60.5-201. Types of teacher licenses issued - term - rules -**  
5 **notice to revisor of statutes - repeal.**

6 (3) (b) (I) The department of education may issue a professional  
7 teacher license to any applicant from another state if:

8 (B) The applicant has had at least three years of successful,  
9 evaluated experience ~~within the previous seven years~~ as a teacher in an  
10 established elementary or secondary school and can provide  
11 documentation of such experience on forms provided by the department.

12 (d) An applicant for an initial teacher license who has three years  
13 or more of teaching experience in another state or country for which the  
14 department ~~of education~~ has granted reciprocity pursuant to this  
15 subsection (3) shall be licensed without having to demonstrate  
16 professional competencies pursuant to section 22-60.5-203 if ~~such~~ THE  
17 person meets all the other qualifications for an initial teacher license or

1 professional teacher license and if ~~such~~ THE person is qualified to teach  
2 in that state or country.

3 (6) (a) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ENTER INTO AN INTERSTATE  
4 RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT WITH EACH STATE THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE  
5 "INTERSTATE TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT" ESTABLISHED IN PART 44 OF  
6 ARTICLE 60 OF TITLE 24. PURSUANT TO THE INTERSTATE RECIPROCAL  
7 AGREEMENTS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE AN INITIAL TEACHER  
8 LICENSE WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF RECEIVING A COMPLETE TEACHER  
9 LICENSE APPLICATION FROM A PERSON LICENSED BY AN INTERSTATE  
10 TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT STATE WHEN THE APPLICANT FOR THE  
11 TEACHER LICENSE:

12 (I) HOLDS A CURRENT TEACHER LICENSE ISSUED BY ANOTHER  
13 STATE THAT:

14 (A) REQUIRED COMPLETION OF A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER;

15 (B) REQUIRED COMPLETION OF A STATE-APPROVED TEACHER  
16 PREPARATION PROGRAM OR ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM;

17 (C) REQUIRED PASSAGE OF CONTENT AREA EXAMINATION; AND

18 (D) AUTHORIZES THE APPLICANT TO SERVE AS TEACHER OF  
19 RECORD IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT ENROLL STUDENTS IN ANY OF  
20 PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE;

21 (II) IS NOT SUBJECT TO CURRENT DISCIPLINARY ACTION,  
22 SUSPENSION, INVESTIGATION, OR RESTRICTION; AND

23 (III) HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A COLORADO CRIMINAL  
24 HISTORY RECORD CHECK PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-103.

25 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL  
26 COURSEWORK, EXAMINATIONS, OR PROGRAM COMPLETIONS BEYOND WHAT  
27 IS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (6)(a)(I) TO (6)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION AS

1 A CONDITION OF INITIAL LICENSE ISSUANCE, BUT THE DEPARTMENT MAY  
2 REQUIRE ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK, EXAMINATIONS, OR PROGRAM  
3 COMPLETIONS AS A CONDITION OF LICENSE RENEWAL.

4 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE WHICH COLORADO  
5 ENDORSEMENT AREAS MOST CLOSELY CORRESPOND TO THE APPLICANT'S  
6 OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE AND SHALL ISSUE AN INITIAL LICENSE IN THOSE  
7 AREAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

8 (d) EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH A TABLE  
9 SHOWING HOW LICENSES FROM EACH STATE THAT HAS ENTERED INTO AN  
10 INTERSTATE RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT  
11 CORRESPOND TO COLORADO ENDORSEMENT AREAS.

12 (e) THIS SUBSECTION (6) WILL BE REPEALED IF THE RULES ADOPTED  
13 BY THE INTERSTATE TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT COMMISSION TAKE  
14 EFFECT. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
15 SHALL NOTIFY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IN WRITING WHEN THE  
16 CONDITION SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (6)(e) HAS OCCURRED BY  
17 EMAILING THE NOTICE TO REVISOROFSTATUTES.GA@COLEG.GOV. THE  
18 REPEAL TAKES EFFECT UPON THE DATE IDENTIFIED IN THE NOTICE THAT  
19 THE COMMISSION'S RULES TAKE EFFECT OR UPON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE  
20 TO THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IF THE NOTICE DOES NOT SPECIFY A  
21 DIFFERENT DATE.

22 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
23 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
24 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
25 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
26 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
27 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act

1     within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
2     unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
3     November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
4     official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.