

CHAPTER 67

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SENATE BILL 26-126

BY SENATOR(S) Marchman and Rich, Amabile, Benavidez, Bridges, Bright, Carson, Catlin, Cutter, Exum, Frizell, Gonzales J., Jodeh, Kipp, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Snyder, Sullivan, Wallace, Weissman, Coleman; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Johnson and Lukens, Boesenecker, Brown, Caldwell, Camacho, Clifford, Duran, Garcia Sander, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Hamrick, Joseph, Keltie, Lieder, Lindsay, Marshall, McCormick, Nguyen, Phillips, Richardson, Rutinel, Smith, Stewart K., Story, McCluskie.

AN ACT**CONCERNING TEACHER LICENSURE FOR OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(6) (a) PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(c) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE AN INITIAL TEACHER LICENSE WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A COMPLETE TEACHER LICENSE APPLICATION FROM A PERSON LICENSED BY A STATE THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE "INTERSTATE TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT" ESTABLISHED IN PART 44 OF ARTICLE 60 OF TITLE 24 WHEN THE APPLICANT FOR THE TEACHER LICENSE:

(I) HOLDS AN UNENCUMBERED ELIGIBLE LICENSE ISSUED BY AN INTERSTATE TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT STATE THAT IS EQUIVALENT TO AN ELIGIBLE LICENSE IN COLORADO;

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

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

(b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK, EXAMINATIONS, OR PROGRAM COMPLETIONS BEYOND WHAT IS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (6)(a)(I) TO (6)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION AS A CONDITION OF INITIAL LICENSE ISSUANCE, BUT THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK, EXAMINATIONS, OR PROGRAM COMPLETIONS AS A CONDITION OF LICENSE RENEWAL.

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

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

(e) THIS SUBSECTION (6) WILL BE REPEALED IF THE DEPARTMENT BEGINS ISSUING LICENSES PURSUANT TO THE "INTERSTATE TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT", ESTABLISHED IN PART 44 OF ARTICLE 60 OF TITLE 24. THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL NOTIFY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IN WRITING WHEN THE CONDITION SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (6)(e) HAS OCCURRED BY EMAILING THE NOTICE TO REVISOROFSTATUTES.GA@COLEG.GOV. THE REPEAL TAKES EFFECT UPON THE DATE IDENTIFIED IN THE NOTICE OR UPON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE TO THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IF THE NOTICE DOES NOT SPECIFY A DIFFERENT DATE.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026

and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 20, 2026