

CHAPTER 251

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SENATE BILL 00-195

BY SENATORS Chlouber, Powers, and Tebedo;
also REPRESENTATIVES Allen, Bacon, Clapp, Gotlieb, King, Plant, Spence, Spradley, Stengel, and Vigil.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES OF EDUCATORS.

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

SECTION 1. 22-60.5-203 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, is REPEALED AND REENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

22-60.5-203. Assessment of professional competencies. (2) THE STATE BOARD BY RULE SHALL IDENTIFY THE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES REQUIRED OF THE APPLICANTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION SPECIFICALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF STANDARDS-BASED EDUCATION PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF PART 4 OF ARTICLE 7 OF THIS TITLE. SUCH PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES SHALL APPLY TO AN APPLICANT ONLY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER TO BE TAUGHT BY THE APPLICANT.

SECTION 2. 22-32-110.3 (4) (d), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

22-32-110.3. Board of education - specific powers - teacher in residence program. (4) (d) Any person employed as a resident teacher, on or before April 15 of the first year of employment, shall pass ~~a basic skills assessment of reading, writing, and mathematics~~ and an assessment of subject matter knowledge, appropriate to the person's teaching assignment, administered by the department of education. Any person who fails to pass the ~~basic skills and~~ subject matter ~~assessments~~ ASSESSMENT by such date shall be terminated from the teacher in residence program at the conclusion of the year and shall not be eligible for enrollment in any other residency program until he or she has passed the ~~basic skills and~~ subject matter assessments.

SECTION 3. 22-60.5-114, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

22-60.5-114. State board of education - waivers. (3) UPON APPLICATION BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES, THE STATE BOARD MAY GRANT A WAIVER OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT A PERSON APPLYING FOR A PROVISIONAL LICENSE DEMONSTRATE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES. SUCH A WAIVER MAY BE GRANTED ONLY BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS FOLLOWING A DEMONSTRATION THAT:

(a) THE LICENSE APPLICANT IS EMPLOYED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES UNDER AN AUTHORIZATION ISSUED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-111;

(b) ENFORCEMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT WOULD CAUSE EXTREME HARDSHIP TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES OR TO THE LICENSE APPLICANT; AND

(c) THE SKILL LEVEL OF THE LICENSE APPLICANT IS COMPARABLE TO THE SKILL LEVEL OF AN APPLICANT WHO HAS SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THE SKILL LEVEL OF THE LICENSE APPLICANT.

SECTION 4. 23-1-121 (5) and (6), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

23-1-121. Commission directive - approval of teacher preparation programs.

(5) The commission, upon the request of a nonpublic institution that provides a teacher preparation program, shall approve the program upon:

(a) Receipt of confirmation by the state board of education that the program content is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a teacher candidate to meet the requirements specified by the state board of education pursuant to section 22-2-109 (3), C.R.S., and the requirements for licensure endorsement adopted by rule of the state board of education pursuant to section 22-60.5-106, C.R.S.; AND

(b) CONFIRMATION THAT THE PROGRAM CONTAINS THE REQUIREMENT OF A MINIMUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED HOURS OF SUPERVISED FIELD-BASED EXPERIENCE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SUPERVISED FIELD-BASED EXPERIENCE GAINED PRIOR TO ADMISSION TO THE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM, GENERAL FIELD-BASED EXPERIENCE, AND STUDENT TEACHING.

(6) Beginning January 2002, the commission shall annually submit to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives a report concerning the effectiveness of the review of teacher preparation programs conducted pursuant to this section. The report shall also state the percentage of teacher candidates graduating from each teacher preparation program during the preceding twelve months that applied for and received a provisional teacher license pursuant to section 22-60.5-201, C.R.S., and the percentage of said graduates who passed the ~~basic skills assessment and related~~ assessments administered pursuant to section 22-60.5-203, C.R.S. The education committees of the senate and the house of representatives shall consider the report in a joint meeting held pursuant to section

22-60.5-116.5, C.R.S.

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 26, 2000