

HF140

RESTRUCTURING MINNESOTA'S TEACHER LICENSING SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHING THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR LICENSING AND STANDARDS BOARD

HF140 makes significant changes to the teacher licensure system and restructures the role and duties of the state Board of Teaching. The bill establishes four teacher licensure tiers and creates a new Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB).

OVERSIGHT BOARD

HF140 restructures the Board of Teaching into a new Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB). The 11-member board will be appointed by the Governor with consent of the Senate. Two members of the current Board of Teaching are eligible for appointment but the remainder of the current members may not serve. The PELSB board is to be made up of:

- 1) Six teachers who have at least five years of teaching experience and not serving in an administrative function at a school when appointed. This selection must be comprised of:
 - One teacher from a charter school
 - One teacher from the seven-county metro area
 - One teacher from outside of the seven-county metro area
 - One teacher from a related service category licensed by the board
 - One special education teacher
 - One teacher from a teacher preparation program
- 2) One superintendent, who alternates each term between a superintendent from the seven-county metro area and a superintendent from outside the seven-county metro area
- 3) One district human resources director
- 4) One administrator of an intermediate school district or service cooperative
- 5) One elementary or secondary school principal that alternates each term
- 6) One member of the public that may be a current or former school board member

Duties of the board include:

- Administering Staff Automated Reporting (STAR) system
- Licensing and credentialing of teachers and school personnel as previously administered by the Board of Teaching and MDE
- Adopting rules to approve teacher preparation programs including alternative teacher preparation programs
- Administering the Teacher Supply and Demand Report

NEW TIERED LICENSURE SYSTEM

TIER 1

Term and renewal: One year, renewable no more than three times, unless the requesting district can show good cause for additional renewals. A Tier 1 license in a shortage area may be renewed without limitation.

The board must approve a request from a district to issue a Tier 1 license to a candidate if:

- 1) The candidate has a bachelor's degree, unless they are teaching a career and technical education or career pathways course. If a candidate is teaching in a career and technical education or career pathways course,

they must have either an associate's degree, a professional certification, or five years of relevant work experience

- 2) The district school demonstrates that:
 - it has affirmed the candidate has the necessary skills and knowledge to teach in a specified content area
 - it has completed a criminal background check on the candidate
 - the district has posted the teacher position but was unable to hire an acceptable teacher with a Tier 2, 3, or 4 license for the position

The PELSB must renew a Tier 1 license, if the district requesting the renewal demonstrates that:

- it has posted the teacher position but was unable to hire an acceptable teacher with a Tier 2, 3, or 4 license for the position
- the teacher holding the Tier 1 license took a content examination

The PELSB must accept applications for a Tier 1 license beginning July 1 of the school year for which the license is requested and must issue or deny the Tier 1 license within 30 days.

A teacher with a Tier 1 license:

- is limited to the content matter indicated on the application for the initial Tier 1 license
- is not included within the statutory definition of a teacher
- must participate in the employing district's mentorship program and must participate in the teacher development an evaluation system, to the extent practicable

TIER 2

Term and renewal: Two years, renewable two times

PELSB must approve a request from a district to issue a Tier 2 license in a specified content area to a candidate if:

- 1) The candidate has a bachelor's degree to teach a class, outside a career and technical education or career pathways course of study. If a candidate is teaching in a career and technical education or career pathways course, they have an associate's degree, a professional certification, or five years of relevant work experience.
- 2) Is enrolled in a Minnesota-approved teacher preparation program; or has a master's degree in the specified content area
- 3) The district demonstrates that it has completed a criminal background check on the candidate
- 4) A candidate for a Tier 2 license must meet two of the following:
 - at least eight upper division credits in the relevant content area
 - field-specific methods of training, including coursework
 - at least two years of teaching experience in a similar content area in any state as determined by the Board
 - a passing score on the pedagogy and content exams
 - completion of a state-approved teacher preparation program

PELSB must accept applications for a Tier 2 license beginning July 1 of the school year for which the license is

requested and must issue or deny the Tier 2 license within 30 days.

A teacher with a Tier 2 license:

- is limited to the content matter indicated on the application for the initial Tier 2 license
- is not included within the statutory definition of a teacher
- must be credited the time towards the three-year probationary period but any time credited under must run consecutively
- must participate in the employing district mentorship program and must participate in the teacher development an evaluation system, to the extent practicable

TIER 3

Term and renewal: Three years, renewable every three years without limitation

PELSB must approve a request from a district to issue a Tier 3 license in a specified content area to a candidate if the candidate demonstrates each of the following:

- 1) The candidate has a bachelor's degree to teach a class, outside a career and technical education or career pathways course of study, is enrolled in a Minnesota-approved teacher preparation program; or has a master's degree in the specified content area. If a candidate is teaching in a career and technical education or career pathways course, they have an associate's degree, a professional certification, or five years of relevant work experience.
- 2) The candidate has obtained a passing score on all required licensure exams
- 3) The candidate has completed one of the following:
 - a Minnesota-approved teacher preparation program
 - completion of a state-approved teacher preparation program that includes field-specific student teaching equivalent to field-specific student teaching in Minnesota-approved teacher preparation programs; does not apply to a candidate that has two years of teaching experience
 - submission of a content-specific portfolio
 - a professional teaching license from another state, evidence that the candidate's license is in good standing, and two years of teaching experience
 - three years of teaching experience under a Tier 2 license, and evidence of summative teacher evaluations that did not result in placing or otherwise keeping the teacher on an improvement process
 - a passing score on all licensure examinations and five years of teaching experience as the teacher of record in any state

A teacher holding a Tier 3 license:

- must participate in the district's mentorship and evaluation program, including an individual growth and development plan

TIER 4

Term and renewal: Five years, renewable every five years without limitation

PELSB must issue a Tier 4 license to a candidate who provides information sufficient to demonstrate each of the following:

- 1) The candidate meets all the requirements for a Tier 3 license
- 2) The candidate has at least three years of teaching experience in Minnesota
- 3) The candidate has obtained a passing score on all required licensure exams

- 4) The candidate's most recent summative teacher evaluation did not result in placing or otherwise keeping the teacher in an improvement process

A teacher holding a Tier 4 license must participate in the district's mentorship and evaluation program, including an individual growth and development plan.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Licensure via portfolio: Directs PELSB to establish a process for a teacher candidate to obtain any license or to add a licensure field, via portfolio. A candidate for a license must submit to the board one portfolio demonstrating pedagogical competence and one portfolio demonstrating content competence. A candidate seeking to add a licensure field must submit to the board one portfolio demonstrating content competence for each licensure field the candidate seeks to add.

Reports: The bill consolidates many school district and statewide reports on teacher shortages into one section as well as rules for teacher preparation programs.

Teacher licensure assessment: PELSB must adopt rules requiring a candidate to demonstrate a passing score on a board-adopted exam in reading, writing, and math before granting a Tier 4 license. The board must adopt rules requiring candidates for Tier 3 and Tier 4 to pass an examination of general pedagogical knowledge and examinations of licensure-specific content.

The requirement to pass a board-adopted skills examination does not apply to non-native English speakers, as verified by qualified Minnesota school district personnel or Minnesota higher education faculty, who after meeting the content and pedagogy requirements, apply for a teaching license to provide a direct instruction in their native language or world language.

Special education licenses: Directs PELSB to conduct a review of all the available teachers of special education licenses and determine the options for cross-categorical licenses for teachers of special education. Directs the existing Board of Teaching, by September 1, 2017, to amend Minnesota Rules so that the academic and behavioral strategist continuing licenses under that part may be issued and renewed according to rules of the Board of Teaching governing continuing licenses and without requiring the candidate to hold or be recommended for licensure in any other licensure field.