

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 634
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/20/17

Short Title: Private Alternative Teacher Preparation.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 10, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO APPROVE CERTAIN
3 QUALIFYING ALTERNATIVE LATERAL ENTRY EDUCATOR PREPARATION
4 PROGRAMS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-296.12 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 115C-296.12. Lateral entry ~~teacher education~~ educator preparation programs.

8 (a) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to encourage lateral entry into the
9 profession of teaching by skilled individuals from the private sector. Skilled individuals who
10 choose to enter the profession of teaching laterally may be granted an initial teaching license
11 for no more than three years and shall be required to obtain licensure required for those who
12 have taught more than three years before contracting for a fourth year of service with any local
13 school administrative unit in this State. The criteria and procedures for lateral entry shall
14 include preservice training in all of the following areas:

15 (1) The identification and education of children with disabilities.

16 (2) Positive management of student behavior.

17 (3) Effective communication for defusing and deescalating disruptive or
18 dangerous behavior.

19 (4) Safe and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint.

20 (a1) The State Board of Education shall approve at least one, but no more than four,
21 alternative, private, for-profit, or nonprofit lateral entry educator preparation programs if the
22 programs meet standards set by the State Board of Education. The standards shall include all of
23 the following requirements:

24 (1) The competency-based standards necessary to earn a teaching license
25 pursuant to subdivisions (1) through (4) of subsection (b) of this section.

26 (2) At least 80 instructional hours of classroom readiness training, including the
27 preservice training pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, prior to entering
28 the classroom.

29 (3) A minimum of three educator coaching visits in the first year of teaching.

30 (4) All required pedagogy and subject-area content completed by the end of the
31 first year of teaching.

32 Alternative educator preparation program providers approved pursuant to this subsection
33 shall administer the training needed to meet the standards set by the State Board of Education.

34 (b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Board of Community
35 Colleges and North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc., may provide a
36 competency-based program of study for lateral entry teachers to complete the coursework



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1 necessary to earn a teaching license. To this end, the State Board of Education, in consultation
2 with the State Board of Community Colleges and North Carolina Independent Colleges and
3 Universities, Inc., shall establish a competency-based program of study for lateral entry
4 teachers to be implemented within the Community College System and at approved educator
5 preparation programs at private, nonprofit two-year colleges. These programs shall meet
6 standards set by the State Board of Education. To ensure that programs of study for lateral
7 entry remain current and reflect a rigorous course of study that is aligned to State and national
8 standards, the State Board of Education shall do all of the following to ensure that lateral entry
9 personnel are prepared to teach:

- 10 (1) Provide adequate coursework in the teaching of reading and mathematics for
11 lateral entry teachers seeking certification in elementary education.
- 12 (2) Assess lateral entry teachers prior to licensure to determine that they possess
13 the requisite knowledge in scientifically based reading and mathematics
14 instruction that is aligned with the State Board's expectations.
- 15 (3) Prepare all lateral entry teachers to apply formative and summative
16 assessments within the school and classroom setting through
17 technology-based assessment systems available in North Carolina schools
18 that measure and predict expected student improvement.
- 19 (4) Require that lateral entry teachers demonstrate competencies in using digital
20 and other instructional technologies to provide high-quality, integrated
21 digital teaching and learning to all students.

22 (c) The State Board of Community Colleges and the State Board of Education shall
23 jointly identify the community college courses and the educator preparation program courses
24 that are necessary and appropriate for inclusion in the community college program of study for
25 lateral entry teachers. To the extent possible, any courses that must be completed through an
26 approved educator preparation program shall be taught on a community college campus or shall
27 be available through distance learning. The State Board of Education shall identify the
28 appropriate courses for a private, nonprofit two-year college to include in the program of study
29 for lateral entry teachers.

30 (d) In order to participate in ~~the a community college or private, nonprofit two-year~~
31 ~~college lateral entry program of study for lateral entry teachers, study,~~ an individual must hold
32 at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

33 (e) An individual who successfully completes ~~the a~~ lateral entry program of study and
34 meets all other lateral entry requirements of licensure set by the State Board of Education shall
35 be recommended for a North Carolina teaching license.

36 (f) It is further the policy of the State of North Carolina to ensure that local boards of
37 education can provide the strongest possible leadership for schools based upon the identified
38 and changing needs of individual schools. The State Board of Education shall carefully
39 consider a lateral entry program for school administrators to ensure that local boards of
40 education will have sufficient flexibility to attract able candidates."

41 **SECTION 2.** The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall request participation
42 applications from alternative, private, for-profit, or nonprofit lateral entry educator preparation
43 programs no later than August 1, 2017, and shall present those applications to the State Board
44 of Education no later than September 15, 2017. By November 15, 2017, the State Board of
45 Education shall approve a minimum of one program, but no more than a total of four programs,
46 if those programs meet the requirements of G.S. 115C-296.12(a1) and have at least five years
47 of experience providing educator preparation services. Approved programs may begin
48 operating as early as the 2018 spring academic term.

49 By December 15, 2019, and continuing each year thereafter, the State Board of
50 Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the
51 performance of teachers who attain a North Carolina teaching license through an alternative,

1 private, for-profit, or nonprofit lateral entry educator preparation program. The State Board
2 shall collect information on the performance of an individual teacher for each year, up to five
3 years, after that teacher attains a North Carolina teaching license. The report shall include
4 information on rates of retention of teachers who attain a teaching license pursuant
5 G.S. 115C-296.12(a1) and the performance of students learning under teachers who attain a
6 teaching license pursuant to G.S. 115C-296.12(a1).

7 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.