

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Establishes a teacher training program leading to standard teacher licensure that provides 300 qualified professionals per year with an alternative to post secondary teacher preparation and alternative licensure programs.

Section

1 Teacher training program for qualified professionals.

Subd. 1. Requirements. (a) Establishes a teacher training program in various instructional fields for up to 300 qualified professionals each year to acquire an entrance license, which is an alternative to postsecondary teacher preparation and alternative licensure programs.

(b) Requires applicants to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year postsecondary institution and an undergraduate major or post baccalaureate degree in the subject to be taught and to pass a required basic skills exam in reading, writing, and math.

Subd. 2. Program. Requires the teacher training program to include 200 clock hours of classroom management, curriculum, and instruction training and at least 5 seminars totaling 20 clock hours during the applicant's first year of teaching.

Subd. 3. Program approval. Requires the education commissioner to approve the

Section

teacher training programs based on criteria developed by a commissioner-appointed advisory group that includes at least representatives of the Board of Teaching and postsecondary institutions, including institutions that offer degrees in teacher preparation.

Requires the commissioner to report to the Higher Education Committees of the legislature by January 15, 2005, on the criteria developed by the advisory group.

Subd. 4. Program delivery. Authorizes postsecondary institutions, district teacher academies, and other entities to apply to deliver teacher training programs for a maximum of 300 teachers per year seeking alternative licensure.

Subd. 5. Eligibility license. Allows an applicant who successfully completes 200 clock hours of training to receive a one-year eligibility license to teach. Requires a school district during the one-year eligibility period to assign a mentor teacher with a regular teaching license. Requires the applicant teacher and mentor to meet at least once per two weeks.

Subd. 6. Standard entrance license. Directs the Board of Teaching to issue a standard entrance to a training program licensee who successfully completes 200 clock hours of training and 5 seminars of at least 20 clock hours, teaches in a classroom for one complete school year, pass the Praxis II pedagogy test, and receives a positive recommendation from the school principal or other district or school administrator.

Subd. 7. Qualified teacher. Defines a person with a valid eligibility license as a qualified teacher.

Subd. 8. Evaluation and report. Requires the legislative auditor to evaluate the alternative licensure program and report to the legislature every three years beginning with February 1, 2008.