

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 1155

Introduced by Raikes, 25.

Read first time January 23, 2008

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to teacher certification; to amend section
2 79-808, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section
3 79-810, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007; to change
4 provisions relating to employment experience in other
5 states; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the
6 original sections.
7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-808, Reissue Revised Statutes of
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 79-808 (1) The board shall establish, adopt, and
4 promulgate appropriate rules, regulations, and procedures governing
5 the issuance, renewal, conversion, suspension, and revocation of
6 certificates and permits to teach, provide special services, and
7 administer based upon (a) earned college credit in humanities,
8 social and natural sciences, mathematics, or career and technical
9 education, (b) earned college credit, or its equivalent in
10 professional education, for particular teaching, special services,
11 or administrative assignments, (c) criminal history record
12 information if the applicant has not been a continuous Nebraska
13 resident for five years immediately preceding application for the
14 first issuance of a certificate, (d) human relations training,
15 (e) successful teaching, administration, or provision of special
16 services, and (f) moral, mental, and physical fitness for teaching,
17 all in accordance with sound educational practices.

18 (2) The board may issue a temporary certificate, valid
19 for a period not to exceed two years, to any applicant for
20 certification who has not completed the human relations training
21 requirement.

22 (3)(a) For purposes of determining qualification for a
23 certificate for an applicant with employment experience in another
24 state, the board shall not require an applicant to have held a
25 certificate issued by another state if:

1 (i) The applicant is otherwise in all aspects qualified
2 for a certificate pursuant to the rules, regulations, and
3 procedures of the board;

4 (ii) At the time of the employment experience in such
5 other state, the applicant was in all respects qualified to obtain
6 a comparable and equivalent certificate from the state or states in
7 which the employment took place;

8 (iii) The employment experience took place in a state in
9 which the applicant did not need to obtain a certificate in order
10 to qualify for the employment experience;

11 (iv) All of the employment experience took place at
12 accredited independent schools; and

13 (v) Regardless of the applicable period of employment
14 experience for the certificate applied for, (A) for a certificate
15 to teach or provide special services, the employment experience
16 of the applicant was no less than three consecutive school
17 years within the five years prior to the application or (B)
18 for a certificate to administer, the employment experience of the
19 applicant was no less than the five consecutive school years prior
20 to the application.

21 (b) For purposes of this subsection:

22 (i) Accredited independent school means a nonpublic
23 independent school accredited by a qualifying regional or state
24 accreditation association;

25 (ii) Applicable period of employment experience means

1 a period of employment experience set forth in the rules,
2 regulations, and procedures of the board as a required or
3 alternative qualification for a particular certificate; and

4 (iii) Qualifying regional or state accreditation
5 association means a regional or state accreditation association
6 that is a member of a national commission on the accreditation of
7 independent schools and recognized by a national association of
8 independent schools.

9 ~~(3)~~ (4) Members of any advisory committee established
10 by the board to assist the board in teacher education and
11 certification matters shall be reimbursed for their actual and
12 necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.
13 Each school district which has an employee who serves as a member
14 of such committee and which is required to hire a person to
15 replace such member during the member's attendance at meetings or
16 activities of the committee or any subcommittee thereof shall be
17 reimbursed from the Certification Fund for the expense it incurs
18 from hiring a replacement. School districts may excuse employees
19 who serve on such advisory committees from certain duties which
20 conflict with any advisory committee duties.

21 Sec. 2. Section 79-810, Revised Statutes Supplement,
22 2007, is amended to read:

23 79-810 (1) Certificates and permits shall be issued by
24 the commissioner upon application on forms prescribed and provided
25 by him or her which shall include the applicant's social security

1 number.

2 (2) Each certificate or permit issued by the commissioner
3 shall indicate the area of authorization to teach, provide special
4 services, or administer and any areas of endorsement for which
5 the holder qualifies. During the term of any certificate or permit
6 issued by the commissioner, additional endorsements may be made on
7 the certificate or permit if the holder submits an application,
8 meets the requirements for issuance of the additional endorsements,
9 and pays a nonrefundable fee of forty dollars.

10 (3) The Certification Fund is created. Any fee received
11 by the department under sections 79-806 to 79-815 shall be remitted
12 to the State Treasurer for credit to the fund. The fund shall be
13 used by the department in paying the costs of certifying educators
14 pursuant to such sections and to carry out subsection ~~(3)~~ (4) of
15 section 79-808. For issuance of a certificate or permit valid in
16 all schools, the nonrefundable fee shall be fifty-five dollars,
17 except that thirteen dollars of the fifty-five-dollar fee shall
18 be credited to the Professional Practices Commission Fund which
19 is created for use by the department to pay for the provisions
20 of sections 79-859 to 79-871. For issuance of a certificate or
21 permit valid only in nonpublic schools, the nonrefundable fee
22 shall be forty dollars. Any money in the Certification Fund or
23 the Professional Practices Commission Fund available for investment
24 shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to
25 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds

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1 Investment Act.

2 Sec. 3. Original section 79-808, Reissue Revised Statutes
3 of Nebraska, and section 79-810, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007,
4 are repealed.