

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2012
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB895

Hearing Date: Monday January 23, 2012
Committee On: Education
Introducer: McGill
One Liner: Provide for teacher certification for military spouses

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Indefinitely postponed

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Adams, Avery, Cornett, Council, Haar, Howard, Seiler, Sullivan
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Amy Williams
Frank Harwood

Representing:

Senator Amanda McGill
Bellevue Public Schools

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Brian Halstead

Representing:

Nebraska Department of Education

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 895 would require the Commissioner of Education to issue a Nebraska teaching certificate to a military spouse if, upon application to the State Board of Education, the military spouse:

- (a) Holds a current certificate to teach from another jurisdiction, and that jurisdiction's requirements for the certification are substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements for certification by the board;
- (b) Can demonstrate competency in teaching through methods as determined by the board, such as having completed continuing education units or having had recent experience for at least two of the five years preceding the date of the application;
- (c) Has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a teacher's certificate in this state at the time the act was committed;
- (d) Is in good standing and has not been disciplined by the agency that had jurisdiction to issue the certification; and
- (e) Pays any fees required by the board.

The bill would require that a military spouse be credited for all relevant experience, including full-time and part-time experience, regardless of whether in a paid or volunteer capacity, in calculating years of practice in the occupation for purposes of subdivision (b) above.

The bill would also require that any nonresident certified to teach under the military spouse certification provisions would be entitled to the same rights and subject to the same obligations as required of a resident certified by the State Board.

The State Board would be authorized to issue a temporary certificate to a military spouse who is certified to teach in

another jurisdiction while the military spouse is satisfying the requirements for certification listed above if that jurisdiction has certification standards substantially equivalent to the standards for certification in Nebraska. The military spouse would be allowed to practice under the temporary certificate until a certificate is granted or until a notice to deny a certificate is issued in accordance with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the State Board.

The bill provides that nothing in the section pertaining to certification for military spouses shall be construed to prohibit a military spouse from proceeding under the other certification requirements established by the State Board.

The provisions described above are contained in section 5 of the bill. Sections 1-4 and 5-15 of the bill amend various references to certification statutes to incorporate the provisions proposed in section 5.

Greg Adams, Chairperson