

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 507

Introduced by Cook, 13.

Read first time January 21, 2015

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to teachers; to amend sections 79-808 and
- 2 79-810, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to require certain
- 3 examinations for special education teachers as prescribed; to
- 4 harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

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

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

19 (2) On and after January 1, 2019, a candidate for issuance of a
20 certificate with an endorsement in special education shall, in addition
21 to the requirements of this section and section 79-809, shall pass
22 specific content-area tests as follows:

23 (a) A candidate applying for a certificate as an elementary school
24 teacher with an endorsement in special education shall pass a
25 multisubject content examination for elementary school special education
26 teachers consisting of the separately scored sections of (i) literacy and
27 English language arts, (ii) mathematics, and (iii) arts and sciences;

28 (b) A candidate applying for a certificate as a secondary school
29 teacher with an endorsement in special education shall pass a
30 multisubject content examination for secondary special education teachers
31 consisting of the separately scored sections of (i) literacy and English

1 language arts, (ii) mathematics, and (iii) arts and sciences; and

2 (c) The board may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
3 carry out this subsection.

4 (3 2) The board may issue a temporary certificate, valid for a
5 period not to exceed two years, to any applicant for certification who
6 has not completed the human relations training requirement.

7 (4 3) Members of any advisory committee established by the board to
8 assist the board in teacher education and certification matters shall be
9 reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in
10 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. Each school district which has an employee
11 who serves as a member of such committee and which is required to hire a
12 person to replace such member during the member's attendance at meetings
13 or activities of the committee or any subcommittee thereof shall be
14 reimbursed from the Certification Fund for the expense it incurs from
15 hiring a replacement. School districts may excuse employees who serve on
16 such advisory committees from certain duties which conflict with any
17 advisory committee duties.

18 Sec. 2. Section 79-810, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
19 amended to read:

20 79-810 (1) Certificates and permits shall be issued by the
21 commissioner upon application on forms prescribed and provided by him or
22 her which shall include the applicant's social security number.

23 (2) Each certificate or permit issued by the commissioner shall
24 indicate the area of authorization to teach, provide special services, or
25 administer and any areas of endorsement for which the holder qualifies.
26 During the term of any certificate or permit issued by the commissioner,
27 additional endorsements may be made on the certificate or permit if the
28 holder submits an application, meets the requirements for issuance of the
29 additional endorsements, and pays a nonrefundable fee of forty dollars.

30 (3) The Certification Fund is created. Any fee received by the
31 department under sections 79-806 to 79-815 shall be remitted to the State

1 Treasurer for credit to the fund. The fund shall be used by the
2 department in paying the costs of certifying educators pursuant to such
3 sections and to carry out subsection (~~4~~ 3) of section 79-808. For
4 issuance of a certificate or permit valid in all schools, the
5 nonrefundable fee shall be fifty-five dollars, except that thirteen
6 dollars of the fifty-five-dollar fee shall be credited to the
7 Professional Practices Commission Fund which is created for use by the
8 department to pay for the provisions of sections 79-859 to 79-871, except
9 that transfers may be made from the fund to the General Fund at the
10 direction of the Legislature. For issuance of a certificate or permit
11 valid only in nonpublic schools, the nonrefundable fee shall be forty
12 dollars. Any money in the Certification Fund or the Professional
13 Practices Commission Fund available for investment shall be invested by
14 the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion
15 Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

16 Sec. 3. Original sections 79-808 and 79-810, Reissue Revised
17 Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.