

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB389

Chairperson: Senator Lynne Walz

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 08, 2021

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 389 takes steps to better support and welcome military families by placing Military Spouse Teacher Certification reciprocity in state statute. The goal is to reduce the burdens and delays faced by military families in relocating to Nebraska.

Nebraska ranks behind several other states that have enacted more military friendly reciprocity statutes related to teacher certification.

This bill updates Nebraska's Teacher Certification for Military Spouses to:

1. Provide reciprocity for applicants :

- Licensed in their profession for at least one year;
- Licensed good standing in all states where they are licensed;
- Do not have any pending investigations or complaints;
- Meet all residency and background check requirements;
- Pay the applicable licensure fees;
- Removes the requirement to complete a separate course on human relations to be licensed. This is a state specific requirement that delays licensure and costs applicants time and money.
- Such certificate or permit shall be valid for at least three years and requires the certificate or permit to have the same or similar subject endorsements as the teacher was licensed to teach in the previous state.

2. Grants a conditional permit to a military spouse that has applied for a teaching certificate with payment the application fee. This allows the person to teach while the application for a teacher certification or a permit is pending additional documentation and is being processed by the Nebraska Department of Education.

3. LB 389 also requires the State Board to promulgate rules to expedite the processing of certification applications for military spouses. Professional licensure portability is a part of the evaluation factors for strategic basing decisions and a part of the support of military

families. Teaching is one of nine professions listed by the Department of Defense and identified as a key issue for 2021. State licensure laws are how this data is evaluated.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Rita Sanders