



## 2023 SENATE BILL 996

February 7, 2024 - Introduced by Senator LARSON, cosponsored by Representatives MYERS, CONLEY, RATCLIFF and STUBBS. Referred to Committee on Education.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 118.19 (14) (b) (intro.) of the statutes; **relating to:**  
2           requirements for an initial license to teach grades kindergarten to five.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, an applicant for certain initial teaching licenses, as a condition for receiving the license, must pass an examination identical to the Foundations of Reading test, commonly called the FORT, in addition to all other requirements for licensure by the Department of Public Instruction. The FORT requirement applies to the following licenses:

1. An initial teaching license that authorizes the holder to teach in grades kindergarten to five.
2. An initial teaching license that authorizes the holder to teach in special education.
3. An initial license as a reading teacher.
4. An initial license as a reading specialist.

Current law also provides an exception to the FORT requirement for an applicant for a special education initial teaching license, under which the applicant may demonstrate to DPI that the applicant completed a course of study in the teaching of reading and reading comprehension, rather than passing the FORT. This bill extends the exception to applicants for an initial license to teach grades kindergarten to five. Under current law and the bill, a teacher who passes the FORT

