



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2019 Assembly Bill 194

**Assembly
Amendment 1**

Memo published: June 14, 2019

Contact: Katie Bender-Olson, Senior Staff Attorney

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 194

Assembly Bill 194 creates an alternative to the requirement that an applicant for an initial special education teaching license must pass the Foundations of Reading Test (FORT). Under the bill, a person may instead complete a course that satisfies the following requirements:

1. The course provides rigorous instruction in the teaching of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and fluency.
2. A student in the course receives feedback and coaching from an individual who holds a master's degree in reading or a reading specialist license issued by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).
3. A student in the course demonstrates competence in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and fluency by providing a portfolio of work.

DPI must waive the requirement to pass the FORT if an applicant for an initial special education teaching license demonstrates to the satisfaction of the agency that he or she successfully completed such a course.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 substitutes the phrase "course of study" in place of the word "course" in the bill's requirements. The amendment also requires that a student in the course of study must receive feedback and coaching from an "expert of reading instruction," rather than from an individual who holds a master's degree in reading or a DPI reading specialist license.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Tranel on June 12, 2019. On June 13, 2019, the Assembly Committee on Education voted to adopt Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 6. The committee then voted to pass Assembly Bill 194, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 3.

KBO:ty