



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 259
[2015 Senate Bill 449]

**Experience-Based Licensure for
Teaching Vocational Education**

2015 Wisconsin Act 55, the 2015-17 Biennial Budget, created an experience-based licensure process for teaching technical education subjects. [s. 118.191, Stats.] 2015 Wisconsin Act 259 creates a parallel experience-based licensure process for teaching vocational education subjects.

Under Act 259, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) must issue a three-year initial teaching license to teach vocational education subjects to an applicant who passes a background check and does both of the following: (1) earns a minimum score on a point system created under the Act; and (2) agrees to complete a curriculum determined by the school board of the school district in which the applicant will teach. The system assigns points both for experience in a vocational field and for pedagogical experience. An applicant must score a minimum of 25 points in each of these two categories and must earn a total score of at least 100.

The Act limits the use of an initial teaching license to authorize an individual to teach only in the school district that determined the curriculum the individual agreed to complete in order to qualify for the initial license. Additionally, an initial teaching license becomes void if the license holder ceases to be employed as a teacher in the school district in which the license holder is authorized to teach.

Under the Act, upon expiration the three-year term of an initial teaching license to teach vocational education subjects, DPI must issue a professional teaching license to the applicant if the applicant successfully completed the curriculum agreed to for initial licensure. Successful completion is determined by the school board that established the curriculum. If applicable, DPI must indicate on the license that a professional teaching license was obtained under an experience-based licensure program.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

The Act also applies the above limits and requirements relating to experience-based licenses to teach vocational education to the experience-based licenses to technical education, as created by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55.

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