



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5473/1  
TKK:wlj&ahe

## 2017 SENATE BILL 848

February 28, 2018 - Introduced by Senator MARKLEIN, cosponsored by Representatives TRANEL, VRUWINK, ROHRKASTE, VANDERMEER, TUSLER and SPIROS. Referred to Committee on Education.

1     AN ACT **to renumber and amend** 118.19 (14) (a); **to amend** 118.19 (14) (c); and  
2     **to create** 118.19 (14) (a) 2. of the statutes; **relating to:** requirements for initial  
3     licensure as a special education teacher.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill permits an individual to receive an initial license as a special education teacher if the individual successfully completes a course in the teaching of reading and reading comprehension, provided the individual satisfies all other requirements for licensure by the Department of Public Instruction. Current law requires, as a condition for receiving an initial license to teach in special education, that an individual has passed an examination identical to the Foundations of Reading test.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

4     **SECTION 1.** 118.19 (14) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 118.19 (14) (a) 1. and  
5     amended to read:  
6         118.19 (14) (a) 1. The Except as provided in subd. 2., the department may not  
7         issue an initial teaching license that authorizes the holder to teach in grades

kindergarten to 5 or in special education, an initial license as a reading teacher, or an initial license as a reading specialist, unless the applicant has passed an examination identical to the Foundations of Reading test administered in 2012 as part of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure. The department shall set the passing cut score on the examination at a level no lower than the level recommended by the developer of the test, based on this state's standards.

**SECTION 2.** 118.19 (14) (a) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

118.19 (14) (a) 2. The department shall waive the requirement under subd. 1. for an applicant seeking an initial teaching license that authorizes the holder to teach in special education if the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that the applicant has successfully completed a course that satisfies all of the following:

a. The course provides rigorous instruction in the teaching of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and fluency.

b. A student in the course receives feedback and coaching from an individual who holds either a masters degree in reading or a reading specialist license issued by the department.

c. A student in the course demonstrates competence in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and fluency by providing a portfolio of work.

**SECTION 3.** 118.19 (14) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

118.19 (14) (c) Any teacher who passes the examination under par. (a) 1. shall notify the department, which shall add a notation to the teacher's license indicating that he or she passed the examination.