2017 SENATE BILL 825

February 21, 2018 - Introduced by Senators FITZGERALD, VUKMIR, DARLING and OLSEN, cosponsored by Representatives NYGREN, FELZKOWSKI, JAGLER, KOOYENGA and THIESFELDT. Referred to Committee on Education.

AN ACT to renumber 118.19 (18) (b) 1. and 118.19 (18) (b) 2.; to renumber and amend 118.19 (18) (b) 3. a. and 118.19 (18) (b) 3. b.; and to amend 118.19 (18) (c) of the statutes; relating to: lifetime licenses issued by the Department of Public Instruction and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the requirements for the Department of Public Instruction to issue a lifetime license to a provisional license holder are 1) the provisional license holder must successfully complete six semesters of teaching, administrator, or pupil services experience and 2) the school board of each school district in which the provisional license holder served as a teacher, administrator, or pupil services professional must certify to DPI that the semesters completed by the provisional license holder in that school district were completed successfully. This bill requires DPI to define by rule what it means to successfully complete a semester of experience and eliminates the requirement that school boards certify successful completion of semesters of experience.

Under current law, if an individual who holds a lifetime license is not actively employed by a school district for five or more consecutive years, DPI must invalidate the lifetime license. Under the bill, DPI must invalidate a lifetime license if the lifetime license holder is not regularly employed in education for five or more
consecutive years. The bill requires DPI to define “regularly employed in education” by rule.

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

SECTION 1. 118.19 (18) (b) 1. of the statutes, as created by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, is renumbered 118.19 (18) (bd).

SECTION 2. 118.19 (18) (b) 2. of the statutes, as created by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, is renumbered 118.19 (18) (bc).

SECTION 3. 118.19 (18) (b) 3. a. of the statutes, as created by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, is renumbered 118.19 (18) (bg) 1. and amended to read:

118.19 (18) (bg) 1. The department may issue a lifetime license under this subdivision to an individual who obtained a provisional license under subd. 2. or par. (a) or (bc) if the individual has successfully completed 6 semesters of teaching, administrating, or pupil services experience and if the school board of each school district in which the individual served as a teacher, administrator, or pupil services professional certifies to the department that the semesters completed by that individual in that school district were completed successfully, as defined by the department by rule.

SECTION 4. 118.19 (18) (b) 3. b. of the statutes, as created by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, is renumbered 118.19 (18) (bg) 2. and amended to read:

118.19 (18) (bg) 2. An individual who does not successfully complete 6 semesters of teaching, administrating, or pupil services experience, as defined by the department by rule, within the 3-year term of a provisional license issued under par. (a) or (bc) may apply to renew the provisional license. There is no limit to the number of times an individual may renew a provisional license under par. (a) or (bc).
SECTION 5. 118.19 (18) (c) of the statutes, as created by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, is amended to read:

118.19 (18) (c) If an individual who holds a lifetime license under par. (b) (bd) or (bg) is not actively regularly employed by a school district in education, as defined by the department by rule, for 5 or more consecutive years, the department shall invalidate the lifetime license. An individual whose lifetime license has been invalidated under this paragraph may not revalidate the lifetime license until the individual applies for and obtains a provisional license under par. (a) and obtains the certification required under par. (b) 3. a. satisfies the requirements under par. (bg) for a lifetime license.

(END)