AN ACT to amend 118.19 (3) (a) of the statutes; relating to: teacher preparatory programs and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill authorizes the state superintendent of public instruction to approve a teacher preparatory program if the program requires students to complete the equivalent of the student teaching required under current law, as determined by the state superintendent by rule. Under current law, the state superintendent may approve a teacher preparatory program only if students in the program are required to complete student teaching that consists of full days for a full semester at a cooperating elementary or secondary school. Current law further specifies that the hours, days, and semester of student teaching are determined based on the cooperating school’s schedule.

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

SECTION 1. 118.19 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

118.19 (3) (a) No license to teach in any public school may be issued unless the applicant possesses a bachelor’s degree including such professional training as the department by rule requires, except as permitted under par. (b) and ss. 115.28 (17)
(a), 118.191, 118.1915, 118.192, 118.193, 118.194, and 118.197. Notwithstanding s. 36.11 (16), no teacher preparatory program in this state may be approved by the state superintendent under s. 115.28 (7) (a), unless each student in the program is required to complete student teaching consisting of full days for a full semester following the daily schedule and semester calendar of the cooperating school or the equivalent, as determined by the state superintendent. No license to teach in any public school may be granted to an applicant who completed a professional training program outside this state unless the applicant completed student teaching consisting of full days for a full semester following the daily schedule and semester calendar of the cooperating school or the equivalent, as determined by the state superintendent. The state superintendent may grant exceptions to the student teaching requirements under this paragraph when the midyear calendars of the institution offering the teacher preparatory program and the cooperating school differ from each other and would prevent students from attending classes at the institution in accordance with the institution's calendar. The state superintendent shall promulgate rules to implement this subsection. If for the purpose of granting a license to teach or for approving a teacher preparatory program the state superintendent requires that an institution of higher education be accredited, the state superintendent shall accept accreditation by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. department of education or by a programmatic accrediting organization.