



2023 SENATE BILL 609

October 30, 2023 - Introduced by Senators FELZKOWSKI, LARSON, TAYLOR and MARKLEIN, cosponsored by Representatives MURSAU, EDMING, MYERS, ARMSTRONG, BRANDTJEN, DITTRICH, GOEBEN, MURPHY, O'CONNOR, RETTINGER, ROZAR, SCHRAA, SNYDER and JOERS. Referred to Committee on Education.

- 1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 118.19 (14) (b) (intro.) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 requirements for an initial license to teach grades kindergarten to five, an
3 initial license as a reading teacher, and an initial license as a reading specialist.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, an applicant for certain initial teaching licenses, as a condition for receiving the license, must pass an examination identical to the Foundations of Reading test, commonly called the FORT, in addition to all other requirements for licensure by the Department of Public Instruction. The FORT requirement applies to the following licenses:

1. An initial teaching license that authorizes the holder to teach in grades kindergarten to five.
2. An initial teaching license that authorizes the holder to teach in special education.
3. An initial license as a reading teacher.
4. An initial license as a reading specialist.

Current law also provides an exception to the FORT requirement for an applicant for a special education initial teaching license, under which the applicant may demonstrate to DPI that the applicant completed a course of study in the teaching of reading and reading comprehension, rather than passing the FORT. This bill extends the exception currently available only to applicants for a special education initial teaching license to applicants for all licenses to which the FORT requirement applies. Specifically, the bill expands the exception to applicants for a

