



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRBs0309/1
FFK:cdc

**SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2,
TO SENATE BILL 608**

February 15, 2024 - Offered by Senator KNODL.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 115.28 (7) (a) and 118.19 (3) (a); and *to create* 118.198 of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** a license to teach based on working as a paraprofessional
3 in a school district.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** 115.28 (7) (a) of the statutes, as affected by 2023 Wisconsin Act 20,
5 is amended to read:

6 115.28 (7) (a) License all teachers for the public schools of the state; make rules
7 establishing standards of attainment and procedures for the examination and
8 licensing of teachers within the limits prescribed in ss. 118.19 (2) and (3), 118.191,
9 118.1915, 118.192, 118.193, 118.194, 118.195, ~~and~~, 118.197, and 118.198; prescribe
10 by rule standards, requirements, and procedures for the approval of teacher
11 preparatory programs leading to licensure, including a requirement that, to be

1 approved by the state superintendent, a teacher preparatory program shall
2 demonstrate that it provides instruction that prepares teachers to teach reading and
3 language arts using science-based early reading instruction, as defined in s. 118.015
4 (1c) (b), and does not provide instruction on teaching reading and language arts that
5 incorporates 3-cueing, as defined in s. 118.015 (1c) (c), and a requirement that,
6 beginning on July 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, each teacher preparatory
7 program located in this state shall submit to the department a list of individuals who
8 have completed the program and who have been recommended by the program for
9 licensure under this subsection, together with each individual's date of program
10 completion, from each term or semester of the program's most recently completed
11 academic year; file in the state superintendent's office all papers relating to state
12 teachers' licenses; and register each such license.

13 **SECTION 2.** 118.19 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 118.19 (3) (a) No license to teach in any public school may be issued unless the
15 applicant possesses a bachelor's degree including such professional training as the
16 department by rule requires, except as permitted under par. (b) and ss. 115.28 (17)
17 (a), 118.191, 118.1915, 118.192, 118.193, 118.194, ~~and~~, 118.197 and 118.198.
18 Notwithstanding s. 36.11 (16), no teacher preparatory program in this state may be
19 approved by the state superintendent under s. 115.28 (7) (a), unless each student in
20 the program is required to complete student teaching consisting of full days for a full
21 semester following the daily schedule and semester calendar of the cooperating
22 school or the equivalent, as determined by the state superintendent. No license to
23 teach in any public school may be granted to an applicant who completed a
24 professional training program outside this state unless the applicant completed
25 student teaching consisting of full days for a full semester following the daily

1 schedule and semester calendar of the cooperating school or the equivalent, as
2 determined by the state superintendent. The state superintendent may grant
3 exceptions to the student teaching requirements under this paragraph when the
4 midyear calendars of the institution offering the teacher preparatory program and
5 the cooperating school differ from each other and would prevent students from
6 attending classes at the institution in accordance with the institution's calendar.
7 The state superintendent shall promulgate rules to implement this subsection. If for
8 the purpose of granting a license to teach or for approving a teacher preparatory
9 program the state superintendent requires that an institution of higher education
10 be accredited, the state superintendent shall accept accreditation by a regional or
11 national institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. department of
12 education or by a programmatic accrediting organization.

13 **SECTION 3.** 118.198 of the statutes is created to read:

14 **118.198 License to teach; paraprofessional experience. (1)** In this
15 section:

16 (a) "Employing school district" means a school district that employs an
17 individual as a paraprofessional.

18 (b) "Experienced teacher" means a teacher who satisfies all of the following
19 criteria:

20 1. For at least 3 school years, the teacher has been regularly employed in and
21 taught in an employing school district.

22 2. The teacher holds a Tier II, III, or IV license to teach issued by the
23 department.

24 3. The teacher has mentored a first-year teacher or a teacher who is newly
25 employed by an employing school district.

1 **(2)** Notwithstanding s. 118.19 (4m), (6) to (9), (12), and (14), the department
2 shall grant a nonrenewable Tier I license to teach for a term of 5 years to an
3 individual who is eligible for licensure under s. 118.19 (4) and (10) and who satisfies
4 all of the following:

5 (a) The individual worked as a paraprofessional in a classroom for at least 3
6 days a week for at least 3 consecutive school years in the employing school district.

7 (b) The individual has earned at least 60 credits from an accredited institution
8 of higher education or technical college or has earned an associate degree.

9 (c) The individual is enrolled in a teacher preparatory program approved by the
10 department that leads to a degree and licensure under s. PI 34.040 (2) (a), Wis. Adm.
11 Code.

12 (d) All of the following recommend the individual for the license under this
13 section by signing the individual's application for the license:

14 1. The principal of the school at which the individual worked under par. (a).

15 2. The school district administrator of the employing school district or the
16 school district administrator's designee.

17 (e) The individual submits an application for a license under this section by
18 September 1 of the school year in which the license is to be issued.

19 (f) The individual has not held a license under this section.

20 **(3)** (a) A license to teach issued under sub. (2) authorizes the license holder to
21 teach only in the employing school district that recommended the license holder
22 under sub. (2) (b).

23 (b) The department may not issue a license to teach issued under sub. (2) in any
24 of the following teaching areas:

25 1. Early childhood special education.

1 2. Cross-categorical special education.

2 3. Speech-language pathology.

3 4. Deaf or hard of hearing.

4 5. Blind and visual impairment.

5 6. American Indian language license.

6 7. American Indian history, culture, and tribal sovereignty.

7 (c) During at least the first school year that the license holder is employed as
8 a teacher by the employing school district, the employing school district shall ensure
9 that the license holder is mentored by an experienced teacher. The employing school
10 district shall provide paid release time to the experienced teacher to observe the
11 license holder teaching and provide feedback to the license holder about the
12 experienced teacher's observations.

13 (d) The employing school district shall ensure that an individual holding a
14 license issued under sub. (2) receives the professional development described in 2023
15 Wisconsin Act 20, section 27 (2) (a), before the individual teaches a grade from
16 kindergarten to 3 in the employing school district.

17 **(4)** Notwithstanding the term of a license under sub. (2), a license under sub.
18 (2) expires on the date that any of the following occur:

19 (a) The employing school district notifies the department that the individual
20 who holds the license is no longer employed by the employing school district or is no
21 longer enrolled in a teacher preparatory program approved by the department that
22 leads to licensure under s. PI 34.040 (2) (a), Wis. Adm. Code.

23 (b) The department determines that the individual who holds the license is no
24 longer employed by the employing school district or is no longer enrolled in a teacher

1 preparatory program approved by the department that leads to licensure under s. PI
2 34.040 (2) (a), Wis. Adm. Code.

3 **SECTION 4. Effective date.**

4 (1) This act takes effect on July 1, 2024.

5 (END)