



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5321/1  
TKK:wlj&ahe

## 2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 999

March 5, 2018 - Introduced by Representatives TRANEL, VRUWINK, ROHRKASTE, VANDERMEER, TUSLER and SPIROS, cosponsored by Senator MARKLEIN. 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

**ASSEMBLY BILL 999****SECTION 1**

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

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

8 118.19 (14) (a) 2. The department shall waive the requirement under subd. 1.  
9 for an applicant seeking an initial teaching license that authorizes the holder to  
10 teach in special education if the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the  
11 department that the applicant has successfully completed a course that satisfies all  
12 of the following:

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

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

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

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

22 118.19 (14) (c) Any teacher who passes the examination under par. (a) 1. shall  
23 notify the department, which shall add a notation to the teacher's license indicating  
24 that he or she passed the examination.

25 (END)