



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3218/1  
FFK:skw

## 2023 SENATE BILL 608

October 30, 2023 - Introduced by Senators KNODL, NASS and TOMCZYK, cosponsored by Representatives DITTRICH, NEDWESKI, RETTINGER, BRANDTJEN, MELOTIK, ROZAR, MURPHY, DONOVAN, O'CONNOR and MICHALSKI. Referred to Committee on Education.

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.

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### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill requires the Department of Public Instruction to issue a provisional license to teach to an individual who a) passes a background check, b) worked as a paraprofessional for at least three days per week for at least one school year in a classroom, and c) is recommended for licensure by the principal of the school at which the individual worked as a paraprofessional, the director of teaching and learning for the school district in which the individual worked as a paraprofessional, and the school district administrator of the school district in which the individual worked as a paraprofessional. Under the bill, a provisional license to teach that is issued based on these criteria authorizes the license holder to teach only in the school district that recommended the individual for the license. Additionally, during the first school year during which the license holder teaches under the license, the license holder must be mentored by a teacher who has taught for at least three school years in the school district. Finally, the bill specifies that DPI must issue a lifetime license based on a provisional license issued under the bill if the license holder successfully completes six semesters of teaching experience.

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For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

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

3           115.28 (7) (a) License all teachers for the public schools of the state; make rules  
4 establishing standards of attainment and procedures for the examination and  
5 licensing of teachers within the limits prescribed in ss. 118.19 (2) and (3), 118.191,  
6 118.1915, 118.192, 118.193, 118.194, 118.195, ~~and~~ 118.197, and 118.198; prescribe  
7 by rule standards, requirements, and procedures for the approval of teacher  
8 preparatory programs leading to licensure, including a requirement that, to be  
9 approved by the state superintendent, a teacher preparatory program shall  
10 demonstrate that it provides instruction that prepares teachers to teach reading and  
11 language arts using science-based early reading instruction, as defined in s. 118.015  
12 (1c) (b), and does not provide instruction on teaching reading and language arts that  
13 incorporates 3-cueing, as defined in s. 118.015 (1c) (c), and a requirement that,  
14 beginning on July 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, each teacher preparatory  
15 program located in this state shall submit to the department a list of individuals who  
16 have completed the program and who have been recommended by the program for  
17 licensure under this subsection, together with each individual's date of program  
18 completion, from each term or semester of the program's most recently completed  
19 academic year; file in the state superintendent's office all papers relating to state  
20 teachers' licenses; and register each such license.

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

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1           118.19 (3) (a) No license to teach in any public school may be issued unless the  
2 applicant possesses a bachelor's degree including such professional training as the  
3 department by rule requires, except as permitted under par. (b) and ss. 115.28 (17)  
4 (a), 118.191, 118.1915, 118.192, 118.193, 118.194, ~~and~~, 118.197 and 118.198.  
5 Notwithstanding s. 36.11 (16), no teacher preparatory program in this state may be  
6 approved by the state superintendent under s. 115.28 (7) (a), unless each student in  
7 the program is required to complete student teaching consisting of full days for a full  
8 semester following the daily schedule and semester calendar of the cooperating  
9 school or the equivalent, as determined by the state superintendent. No license to  
10 teach in any public school may be granted to an applicant who completed a  
11 professional training program outside this state unless the applicant completed  
12 student teaching consisting of full days for a full semester following the daily  
13 schedule and semester calendar of the cooperating school or the equivalent, as  
14 determined by the state superintendent. The state superintendent may grant  
15 exceptions to the student teaching requirements under this paragraph when the  
16 midyear calendars of the institution offering the teacher preparatory program and  
17 the cooperating school differ from each other and would prevent students from  
18 attending classes at the institution in accordance with the institution's calendar.  
19 The state superintendent shall promulgate rules to implement this subsection. If for  
20 the purpose of granting a license to teach or for approving a teacher preparatory  
21 program the state superintendent requires that an institution of higher education  
22 be accredited, the state superintendent shall accept accreditation by a regional or  
23 national institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. department of  
24 education or by a programmatic accrediting organization.

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

**SENATE BILL 608****SECTION 3**

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

3           (a) “Employing school district” means a school district that employs an  
4 individual as a paraprofessional.

5           (b) “Experienced teacher” means a teacher who has taught for at least 3 school  
6 years in an employing school district.

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

11           (a) The individual worked as a paraprofessional in a classroom for at least 3  
12 days a week for at least one school year.

13           (b) All of the following recommend the individual for a provisional license to  
14 teach by signing the individual’s application for a license under this section:

- 15           1. The principal of the school at which the individual worked under par. (a).
- 16           2. The director of teaching and learning for the employing school district.
- 17           3. The school district administrator of the employing school district or the  
18 school district administrator’s designee.

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

22           (b) During at least the first school year that the license holder is employed as  
23 a teacher by the employing school district, the employing school district shall ensure  
24 that the license holder is mentored by an experienced teacher.

