

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 250

Passed over the Governor's veto May 24, 1989.

Introduced by Hall, 7; Withem, 14; Chambers, 11;  
Bernard-Stevens, 42

AN ACT relating to teachers; to amend section 79-1247.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and section 79-1247.04, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1988; to define a term; to require training in human relations as prescribed; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 79-1247.04, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1988, be amended to read as follows:

79-1247.04. As used in sections 79-1247.03 to 79-1247.13, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Board shall mean the State Board of Education;

(2) Commissioner shall mean the Commissioner of Education; and

(3) Standard institution of higher education shall mean any college or university, the teacher education programs of which are fully approved by the State Board of Education; and

(4) Training in human relations shall mean training offered by each standard institution of higher education by the integration of human relations training into an existing course or combination of existing courses and evidenced by a voucher verifying that such training has in fact been offered to each graduate of such institution. Such training shall be designed to lead to the following skills:

(a) An awareness and understanding of the values, lifestyles, contributions, and history of a pluralistic society;

(b) The ability to recognize and deal with dehumanizing biases, including, but not limited to, sexism, racism, prejudice, and discrimination, and an awareness of the impact such biases have on interpersonal relations;

(c) The ability to translate knowledge of human relations into attitudes, skills, and techniques which result in favorable experiences for students;

(d) The ability to recognize the ways in which dehumanizing biases may be reflected in instructional materials;

(e) Respect for human dignity and individual rights; and

(f) The ability to relate effectively to other individuals and to groups in a pluralistic society other than the teacher's own.

Sec. 2. That section 79-1247.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

79-1247.05. (1) The board shall establish, adopt, and promulgate appropriate rules, regulations, and procedures governing the issuance, renewal, conversion, revival, cancellation, suspension, and revocation of certificates and permits to teach, counsel, supervise, and administer in all elementary and secondary schools in this state based upon (a) earned college credit in humanities, social and natural sciences, mathematics, and practical arts, (b) earned college credit, or its equivalent in professional education, for particular teaching, counseling, supervisory, or administrative assignments, (c) scholarship attained in earning such college credit, (d) training in human relations. This subdivision shall apply to the issuance of first certificates or permits issued after January 1, 1990, and to the issuance of renewal certificates or permits issued after January 1, 1993. (e) successful teaching, and (f) moral, mental, and physical fitness for teaching, all in accordance with sound educational practices.

(2) On or before July 31, 1987, the ~~State Board of Education~~ board shall establish or designate basic skills competency examinations for prospective teachers. Such examinations shall measure:

(a) Competency in the written use of the English language;

(b) Competency to read, comprehend, and interpret professional writing and other written materials; and

(c) Competency to work with fundamental mathematical computations.

No candidate applying for an entry-level teacher or administrator certificate after July 31, 1989, shall receive such certificate unless such candidate has received a satisfactory score on the basic skills competency examinations established or designated by the ~~State Board of Education~~ board, except that the board may issue a temporary certificate to any teacher

or administrator who is first employed in a Nebraska school after July 1 of any year and who meets all other requirements but has not had an opportunity to take the examinations. The temporary certificate shall be valid only for the ensuing school year and may not be renewed. Each Nebraska teacher education institution approved by the State Board of Education board shall administer the basic skills competency examinations as a condition for entry into such institution's teacher or administrator program. The State Department of Education shall administer, at a time and place designated by the commissioner, the examinations for teachers and administrators being recommended for certification from outside of Nebraska and for prospective teachers and administrators who have not matriculated in or completed a teacher training program, at a time and place designated by the Commissioner of Education.

(3) In order to ensure that all teachers throughout the state maintain and continue to develop effective teaching skills, the State Board of Education board shall, when funds are appropriated by the Legislature to carry out this subsection, adopt four career certification levels in addition to other temporary, provisional, service, or emergency certification classifications. Each certification level shall reflect a level of achievement attained by a teacher based on such teacher's professional growth, and academic achievement, and years of successful teaching experience. The certification levels prescribed in this subsection shall be applicable to teachers receiving their first Nebraska teaching certificate after the adoption of such certification levels by the State Board of Education board. The levels of certification shall be as follows:

(a) The first level of certification shall be known as the apprentice teaching certificate. To be eligible to receive an apprentice teaching certificate, a teacher shall, after within three years following the adoption of the certification levels by the State Board of Education, have completed board complete the requirements prescribed in subsection (2) of this section and received receive a satisfactory score or rating on a subject matter examination established or designated by the State Board of Education board. Such certificate shall be valid for three years;

(b) The second level of certification shall be known as the initial teaching certificate. To be eligible to receive an initial teaching certificate, a teacher shall have served serve as an apprentice teacher

for at least two years and successfully completed complete the requirements of the entry-year assistance program as provided in subsection (5) of this section, if applicable. Such certificate shall be valid for five years and be nonrenewable, except that any teacher who fails to continue to teach during the life of an initial teaching certificate shall be eligible to reenter teaching at such certification level and to teach under the initial teaching certificate for not longer than five school years;

(c) The third level of certification shall be known as the standard teaching certificate. To be eligible for the standard teaching certificate, the teacher shall have served serve at least two years with an apprentice teaching certificate and at least three years with an initial teaching certificate and earned earn at least eighteen college credit hours or its equivalent in continuing education units. The State Board of Education board shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations establishing and defining continuing education units. For purposes of this section, credit hour shall mean units earned in a master's degree program, a fifth-year program, or towards an additional teaching endorsement or in an area of such teacher's assigned duties or specialization or towards an additional teaching endorsement.

Such certificate shall be valid for a period of five years and may be renewed for a second five-year period if a teacher verifies the completion of thirty-six hours of college credit or its equivalent in continuing education units. Thereafter the standard teaching certificate may be renewed for additional five-year periods if such teacher verifies at least two years of successful teaching experience during the life of the certificate or completes six hours of college credit or its equivalent in continuing education units. Any teacher who fails to continue to teach during the life of a standard certificate shall be eligible to return to teaching at such certification level and to teach under the standard certificate for no longer than five school years; and

(d) The fourth level of certification shall be known as the professional teaching certificate. To be eligible for a professional teaching certificate, the teacher shall have completed complete a master's degree program or fifth-year program and served serve at least three years with an initial teaching certificate and at least three years with a standard teaching certificate.

Such certificate shall be valid for ten years

and may be renewed for additional ten-year periods if the teacher verifies at least three years of successful teaching experience during the life of the certificate or completes nine hours of college credit or its equivalent in continuing education units. College credit hours shall have been be completed within five years of the date of the renewal application.

(4) Any teacher who, prior to the adoption of the certification levels by the State Board of Education, board holds a valid Nebraska prestandard, standard, or professional certificate and who is fifty-five years of age or older shall be eligible to renew such certificates pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the State Board of Education board on July 8, 1977. Those persons holding a Professional Life Certificate issued prior to July 11, 1977, shall be exempt from certificate renewal.

(5) When funds are appropriated by the Legislature to carry out this subsection, the State Board of Education board shall adopt an entry-year assistance program. The purpose of such program shall be to provide assistance to beginning teachers. Participation in such program shall be required for all teachers who have not, prior to the adoption of the certification levels by the State Board of Education board, held any Nebraska teaching certificate, except that any teacher employed by a private, denominational, or parochial school shall be exempt from participation in the entry-year assistance program. The State Board of Education board shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing such program which take into consideration the size and geographical location of schools and the special needs of schools located in sparsely populated areas. Such rules and regulations shall provide for reasonable compensation for individuals who provide service and assistance to entry-year teachers subject to this subsection. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate additional funds to the operational budget of the State Department of Education sufficient to meet the costs of the entry-year assistance program.

(6) When funds are appropriated by the Legislature to carry out this subsection, the State Board of Education board shall adopt minimum standards for the initial and continuing certification of principals, supervisors, and superintendents in the state's elementary and secondary schools which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Each candidate for an initial certificate

shall receive a satisfactory rating or score on the basic skills competency examinations prescribed in subsection (2) of this section; and

(b) Each candidate for an initial certificate shall demonstrate proficiency in personnel management and educational leadership and demonstrate satisfactory teaching performance.

The State Board of Education board may establish internship programs for principals, supervisors, and superintendents which are substantially equivalent in purpose and requirements to the entry-year assistance program established in subsection (5) of this section.

(7) Members of any advisory committee established by the State Board of Education board to assist such the board in teacher certification matters shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177, for state employees. Each school district which has an employee who serves as a member of such committee and which is required to hire a person to replace such member during the member's attendance at meetings or activities of the committee or any subcommittee thereof shall be reimbursed from the General Fund for the expense it incurs from hiring a replacement. School districts may excuse employees who serve on such advisory committees from certain duties if such duties which conflict with any advisory committee duties.

Sec. 3. That original section 79-1247.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and section 79-1247.04, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1988, are repealed.