

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
NINETY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 314**

Introduced by Stuhr, 24

Read first time January 8, 2001

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to teachers; to amend sections 79-808, 79-809,  
2 and 79-812, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to  
3 change provisions relating to teaching certificates; to  
4 harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original  
5 sections.  
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1                   Section 1.   Section 79-808, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3                   79-808.   (1) The board shall establish, adopt, and  
4 promulgate appropriate rules, regulations, and procedures governing  
5 the issuance, renewal, conversion, revival, cancellation,  
6 suspension, and revocation of certificates and permits to teach,  
7 counsel, supervise, and administer in all elementary and secondary  
8 schools in this state based upon (a) earned college credit in  
9 humanities, social and natural sciences, mathematics, and practical  
10 arts, (b) earned college credit, or its equivalent in professional  
11 education, for particular teaching, counseling, supervisory, or  
12 administrative assignments, (c) scholarship attained in earning  
13 such credit, (d) training in human relations, ~~which requirement~~  
14 ~~shall apply to the issuance of first certificates or permits issued~~  
15 ~~after January 1, 1990, and to the issuance of renewal certificates~~  
16 ~~or permits issued after January 1, 1993,~~ (e) successful teaching,  
17 and (f) moral, mental, and physical fitness for teaching, all in  
18 accordance with sound educational practices.

19                   (2)(a) The board shall establish or designate basic  
20 skills competency examinations for prospective teachers. The  
21 examinations shall measure competency in the written use of the  
22 English language, competency to read, comprehend, and interpret  
23 professional writing and other written materials, and competency to  
24 work with fundamental mathematical computations.

25                   (b) ~~Ne~~ Except as provided otherwise in this subdivision,  
26 a candidate applying for an entry-level teacher or administrator  
27 certificate after July 31, 1989, shall not receive a certificate  
28 unless such candidate has received a satisfactory score on the

1 basic skills competency examinations established or designated by  
2 the board. A candidate shall be exempt from this requirement if  
3 the candidate has three or more successive years of experience in  
4 an approved or accredited school with a certificate issued by that  
5 state on the basis of successful completion of an approved teacher  
6 education program in that state or another state. The 7 except  
7 ~~that the~~ board may issue a temporary certificate to any teacher or  
8 administrator who is first employed in a Nebraska school after  
9 April 1 of any year and who meets all other requirements but has  
10 not taken or received a satisfactory score on the examinations.  
11 The temporary certificate shall be valid only for the ensuing  
12 school year and may be renewed for one additional year. Each  
13 Nebraska teacher education institution approved by the board shall  
14 administer the basic skills competency examinations as a condition  
15 for entry into such institution's teacher or administrator program.  
16 ~~The State Department of Education shall administer, at a time and~~  
17 ~~place designated by the commissioner, the examinations for teachers~~  
18 ~~and administrators being recommended for certification from outside~~  
19 ~~of Nebraska and for prospective teachers and administrators who~~  
20 ~~have not matriculated in or completed a teacher training program.~~

21 (c) The board may issue a temporary certificate, valid  
22 for a period not to exceed two years, to any applicant for  
23 certification who has not completed the human relations training  
24 requirement pursuant to subdivision (1)(d) of this section or the  
25 special education competencies requirement specified in section  
26 79-816. No applicant for certification shall receive any manner of  
27 temporary certification which exceeds two years in duration. The  
28 board may also issue such temporary certification, valid for not

1 more than two years, pursuant to the Interstate Agreement on  
2 Qualification of Educational Personnel found in section 79-893.

3 (d) The board may issue substitute teaching certificates  
4 or permits in the absence of training in human relations required  
5 pursuant to subdivision (1)(d) of this section, the basic skills  
6 competency examinations required pursuant to subdivision (2)(b) of  
7 this section, or the special education competencies requirement  
8 specified in section 79-816.

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

21 Sec. 2. Section 79-809, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
22 Nebraska, is amended to read:

23 79-809. The maximum which the board may require for the  
24 ~~first~~ issuance of any entry-level certificate or permit, valid for  
25 teaching only in all schools for a term of not less than three  
26 years, shall be that the applicant is of sound mental and physical  
27 health and of good moral character and a statement countersigned by  
28 an authorized official of a standard institution of higher

1 education which certifies the grade levels and subject fields or  
2 areas of specialization and that the applicant (1) has a  
3 baccalaureate degree, except that a master's degree shall be  
4 required for the ~~first~~ issuance of any entry-level teaching  
5 certificate with a speech-language pathologist endorsement, (2) has  
6 filed a complete set of his or her legible fingerprints for a  
7 criminal history record information check if required by section  
8 79-8,111, (3) in the case of any person who matriculates in a  
9 teacher training program, has satisfactorily completed, within two  
10 years of the date of application, the institution's regular  
11 approved or accredited program of preparation for teaching and has  
12 met all other appropriate requirements of the institution as a  
13 teacher, (4) has achieved a satisfactory score on the basic skills  
14 competency examinations established or designated by the State  
15 Board of Education pursuant to section 79-808 prior to (a)  
16 admission into a Nebraska teacher training program or (b)  
17 certification in the case of individuals recommended for  
18 certification by a postsecondary institution outside of Nebraska or  
19 individuals not matriculating in a teacher training program, and  
20 (5) has performed at a satisfactory level, as determined by the  
21 State Board of Education, on a subject area examination established  
22 or designated by the State Board of Education in each area for  
23 which endorsement is sought.

24           Sec. 3.     Section 79-812, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
25 Nebraska, is amended to read:

26           79-812.    The board may authorize the issuance of  
27 certificates or permits upon recommendation from institutions of  
28 higher education located in states other than Nebraska if the

1    respective State Department of Education or similar agency fully  
2    approves the teacher education programs of the institution based on  
3    standards for approving the institution and its education programs  
4    which are comparable and equivalent to those required by the board.  
5    ~~Any applicant for a Nebraska teacher or administrator certificate~~  
6    ~~who is recommended for certification by a teacher training~~  
7    ~~institution from outside Nebraska and who does not hold a current~~  
8    ~~out-of-state certificate to teach or administer shall receive a~~  
9    ~~satisfactory rating or score on the basic skills competency~~  
10   ~~examinations and a subject matter examination as prescribed by the~~  
11   ~~State Board of Education pursuant to section 79-808 or meet~~  
12   ~~comparable equivalent requirements as prescribed by law or~~  
13   ~~regulation of the state in which such teacher training institution~~  
14   ~~is located.~~

15                Sec. 4.    Original sections 79-808, 79-809, and 79-812,  
16   Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.