LEGISLATIVE BILL 650

Introduced by Linehan, 39.
Read first time January 18, 2017
Committee: Education

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to teachers; to change provisions for teaching certificates as prescribed; to authorize alternative certification for teachers; and to authorize adjunct teaching certificates.
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. In addition to teachers' certificates issued pursuant to sections 79-806 to 79-815, certificates to teach in the public schools in Nebraska shall be granted by the State Board of Education, after passage of the appropriate subject area examination as designated by the board, as follows:

(1) On the basis of college credit earned;

(2) To any person who presents to the board a valid doctoral degree from a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency, except such certificate shall be limited to the subject area of postgraduate study of the holder;

(3) To any person holding a valid teaching certificate issued by a national or regional educator credentialing agency approved by the board and who annually completes the requirements to maintain such certification from a national or regional educator credentialing agency;

(4) To any person who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state and who annually completes the requirements to maintain either the certification from such other state or certification pursuant to rules and regulations of the board;

(5) Pursuant to an alternative certification program approved by the board; and

(6) To any person who has at least two years of teaching experience at the postsecondary level.

Issuance of a certificate under this section shall be subject to a criminal history record information check pursuant to section 79-814.01 and rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the board to carry out this section.

Sec. 2. The State Board of Education by rules and regulations shall provide for the issuance of an adjunct teaching certificate to any applicant who has expertise in the subject area to be taught and fulfills the requirements of the rules and regulations. An applicant shall be considered to have expertise in the subject area to be taught if the
applicant demonstrates sufficient content mastery through passage of a subject area examination as designated by the board. The adjunct teaching certificate shall only be used for a part-time teaching position. Each adjunct teaching certificate is valid for five school years and is renewable if the applicant has received satisfactory performance evaluations during each year of teaching under the adjunct teaching certificate.