



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001
Committee Statement
LB 314

Hearing Date: 1/23/01
Committee On: Education

Introducers: (Stuhr, Erdman)
Title: Change teaching certificate provisions

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

Yes	Senators Price, Suttle, Stuhr, Raikes, Coordsen
No	None
Present, not voting	None
Absent	Senators Brashear, Wickersham, Maxwell

Proponents:

Senator Elaine Stuhr
 Mike Dulaney
 Jim Griess
 Virgil Horne
 John Fero
 Marge Harouff

Representing:

Introducer
 Nebraska Council of School Administrators
 Nebraska State Education Association
 Lincoln Public Schools
 Crete Public Schools
 State Board of Education
 Commissioner of Education
 Department of Education

Written:

John Bonaiuto

Nebraska Association of School Boards

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 314 exempts candidates for teacher or administrator certificates from the basic skills competency examination if the candidate has 3 years of experience or is being recommended by an approved teacher training institution in another state.

Section 79-808 is amended by exempting candidates for entry-level teacher or administrator certificates from the basic skills competency exam if the candidate has 3 or more successive years of experience in an approved or accredited school with a certificate issued by that state. The certificate must have been issued based on successful completion of an approved teacher education program. The section is also amended removing a requirement for the Department of Education to administer the basic skills exam and by removing obsolete language.

Section 79-809 is amended by revising terminology for consistency.

Section 79-812 is amended by removing a requirement for teachers and administrators that are recommended for certification by a teacher training institution from outside Nebraska and that do not hold a current certificate from another state. Those candidates are currently required pursuant to this section to pass the basic skills exam and a subject matter exam or meet comparable equivalent requirements as prescribed by law or regulation of the state in which the teacher training institution is located. This requirement is eliminated.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment exempts candidates for teacher or administrator certificates from the basic skills competency examination if the candidate has current credentials from a national nonprofit organization that meets the following criteria:

1. The organization is approved by the Department of Education;
2. The purpose of the organization is to establish high and rigorous standards in a broad range of educational areas for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do; and
3. The organization issues credentials to teachers who demonstrate that they meet those standards.

The credentials are generally referred to as national certification and are the credentials required to qualify for the Master Teacher Program that was adopted as a part of LB 1399 during the 2000 session.

The amendment also reinstates the basic skills competency examination for teacher and administrator certificates for candidates recommended by an approved teacher training institution in another state. Language is added to § 79-812 making those candidates subject to the requirements that apply to all other candidates, which would include the basic skills exam.

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson