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SENATE BILL NO. 879

Offered January 8, 2025

Prefiled January 3, 2025

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-298.1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to Board of Education; teacher licensure; career and technical education; alternative pathway to provisional licensure.

Patron—Ebbin

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-298.1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-298.1. (Effective until July 1, 2030) Regulations governing licensure.

A. As used in this section:

"Alternate route to licensure" means a nontraditional route to teacher licensure available to individuals who meet the criteria specified in the guidelines developed pursuant to subsection P or regulations issued by the Board.

"Industry certification credential" means an active career and technical education credential that is earned by successfully completing a Board-approved industry certification examination, being issued a professional license in the Commonwealth, or successfully completing an occupational competency examination.

"Licensure by reciprocity" means the issuance of a license as a teacher in the Commonwealth to an individual coming into the Commonwealth from another state when that individual meets certain conditions specified in the Board's regulations.

"Local eligibility license" means a nonrenewable license issued in accordance with subsection M, not to exceed one year, to an individual who needs to take additional coursework but otherwise meets certain conditions for licensure set forth in the Board's regulations and subsection M, and who may be employed by a school division in the Commonwealth with the intention of such individual, upon satisfaction of the applicable requirements set forth in Board regulations, receiving full licensure with a renewable license.

"Professional teacher's assessment" means those tests mandated for licensure as prescribed by the Board.

"Provisional license" means a nonrenewable license issued by the Board or by a division superintendent as permitted pursuant to subdivision D 5 for a specified period of time, not to exceed three years, to an individual who may be employed by a school division in the Commonwealth and who generally meets the requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, but who may need to take additional coursework, pass additional assessments, or meet alternative evaluation standards to be fully licensed with a renewable license.

"Renewable license" means a license issued by the Board for 10 years to an individual who meets the requirements specified in the Board's regulations.

"Universal licensure by reciprocity" means the issuance of a license as a teacher in the Commonwealth to any individual who holds a valid out-of-state teaching license with full credentials and without deficiencies that has been in force and in use by the individual as an employed teacher in a non-virtual classroom setting at a public or private elementary or secondary school for at least three years prior to and is in force at the time the Department receives such individual's application for a license as a teacher in the Commonwealth.

B. The Board shall prescribe, by regulation, the requirements for the licensure of teachers and other school personnel required to hold a license. Such regulations shall include procedures for (i) the denial, suspension, cancellation, revocation, and reinstatement of licensure; (ii) written reprimand of license holders on grounds established by the Board, in accordance with law, notice of which shall be made by the Superintendent to division superintendents or their designated representatives; and (iii) the immediate and thorough investigation by the division superintendent or his designee of any complaint alleging that a license holder has engaged in conduct that may form the basis for the revocation of his license. At a minimum, such procedures for investigations contained in such regulations shall require (a) the division superintendent to petition for the revocation of the license upon completing such investigation and finding that there is reasonable cause to believe that the license holder has engaged in conduct that forms the basis for revocation of a license; (b) the school board to proceed to a hearing on such petition for revocation within 90 days of the mailing of a copy of the petition to the license holder, unless the license holder requests the cancellation of his license in accordance with Board regulations; and (c) the school board to provide a copy of the investigative file and such petition for revocation to the Superintendent at the time that the hearing is scheduled. The Board shall revoke the license of any person for whom it has received a notice of dismissal or

59 resignation pursuant to subsection F of § 22.1-313 and, in the case of a person who is the subject of a founded  
60 complaint of child abuse or neglect, after all rights to any administrative appeal provided by § 63.2-1526 have  
61 been exhausted. In the case of a teacher who is the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse or neglect  
62 and whose license has been revoked pursuant to this subsection, in the event that a court reverses such finding  
63 of abuse or neglect and the individual submits to the Department an application for the reinstatement of his  
64 license as a teacher, the Board shall consider and act upon such application no later than 90 days after the  
65 date of submission. Regardless of the authority of any other agency of the Commonwealth to approve  
66 educational programs, only the Board shall have the authority to license teachers to be regularly employed by  
67 school boards, including those teachers employed to provide nursing education.

68 The Board shall prescribe by regulation the licensure requirements for teachers who teach only online  
69 courses, as defined in § 22.1-212.23. Such license shall be valid only for teaching online courses. Teachers  
70 who hold a 10-year renewable license issued by the Board may teach online courses for which they are  
71 properly endorsed.

72 C. The Board's regulations shall include requirements that a person seeking initial licensure:

73 1. Demonstrate proficiency in the relevant content area and other core skills for educators by achieving a  
74 qualifying score on professional assessments or meeting alternative evaluation standards as prescribed by the  
75 Board. Such assessments for any individual seeking initial licensure with an endorsement in early/primary  
76 education preschool through grade three, elementary education preschool through grade six, special education  
77 general curriculum kindergarten through grade 12, special education deaf and hard of hearing preschool  
78 through grade 12, or special education blindness/visual impairments preschool through grade 12 or as a  
79 reading specialist shall include a rigorous test of science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy  
80 instruction;

81 2. Complete study in attention deficit disorder;

82 3. Complete study in gifted education, including the use of multiple criteria to identify gifted students; and

83 4. Complete study in methods of improving communication between schools and families and ways of  
84 increasing family involvement in student learning at home and at school.

85 D. In addition, such regulations shall include requirements that:

86 1. Every person seeking initial licensure and persons seeking licensure renewal as teachers who have not  
87 completed such study shall complete study in child abuse recognition and intervention in accordance with  
88 curriculum guidelines developed by the Board in consultation with the Department of Social Services that are  
89 relevant to the specific teacher licensure routes;

90 2. Every person seeking renewal of a license shall complete all renewal requirements, including  
91 professional development in a manner prescribed by the Board, except that no person seeking renewal of a  
92 license shall be required to satisfy any such requirement by completing coursework and earning credit at an  
93 institution of higher education;

94 3. Every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license shall provide evidence of completion of  
95 certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated  
96 external defibrillators. The certification or training program shall (i) be based on the current national  
97 evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an  
98 automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the American Heart Association or the  
99 American Red Cross, and (ii) include hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary  
100 resuscitation. The Board shall provide a waiver for this requirement for any person with a disability whose  
101 disability prohibits such person from completing the certification or training;

102 4. Every person seeking licensure with an endorsement as a teacher of the blind and visually impaired  
103 shall demonstrate proficiency in reading and writing Braille;

104 5. Every teacher seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth with an endorsement in the area of career  
105 and technical education shall have an industry certification credential in the area in which the teacher seeks  
106 endorsement. If a teacher seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth *with an endorsement in the area of*  
107 *career and technical education* has (i) not attained an industry certification credential in the area in which the  
108 teacher seeks endorsement, the division superintendent may issue the teacher a provisional license to allow  
109 time for the teacher to attain such credential *or (ii) a high school diploma or a high school equivalency*  
110 *certificate and an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license in the area in which such person*  
111 *seeks an endorsement but has not completed all requirements specified in the Board's regulations for*  
112 *licensure, the Board shall issue the person a provisional license to allow time for such person to complete, in*  
113 *lieu of the outstanding requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, coursework in*  
114 *classroom management, curriculum and instruction in career and technical education, and human growth*  
115 *and development or educational technology;*

116 6. Every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license shall complete awareness training,  
117 provided by the Department, on the indicators of dyslexia, as that term is defined by the Board pursuant to  
118 regulations, and the evidence-based interventions and accommodations for dyslexia;

119 7. Every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an endorsement as a school

120 counselor shall complete training in the recognition of mental health disorder and behavioral distress,  
121 including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse;

122 8. Every person seeking initial licensure as a teacher who has not received the instruction described in  
123 subsection D of § 23.1-902 shall receive instruction or training on positive behavior interventions and  
124 supports; crisis prevention and de-escalation; the use of physical restraint and seclusion, consistent with  
125 regulations of the Board; and appropriate alternative methods to reduce and prevent the need for the use of  
126 physical restraint and seclusion;

127 9. Every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license shall complete instruction or training in  
128 cultural competency;

129 10. Every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an endorsement in history and  
130 social sciences shall complete instruction in African American history, as prescribed by the Board;

131 11. Every person seeking renewal of a license as a teacher shall complete training in the instruction of  
132 students with disabilities that includes (i) differentiating instruction for students depending on their needs; (ii)  
133 understanding the role of general education teachers on the individualized education program team; (iii)  
134 implementing effective models of collaborative instruction, including co-teaching; and (iv) understanding the  
135 goals and benefits of inclusive education for all students; and

136 12. Every person seeking initial licensure with an endorsement in early/primary education preschool  
137 through grade three, elementary education preschool through grade six, special education general curriculum  
138 kindergarten through grade 12, special education deaf and hard of hearing preschool through grade 12, or  
139 special education blindness/visual impairments preschool through grade 12 or as a reading specialist shall  
140 complete study in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.

141 E. No teacher who seeks a provisional license shall be required to meet any requirement set forth in  
142 subdivision D 1, 3, 6, or 8 as a condition of such licensure, but each such teacher shall complete each such  
143 requirement during the first year of provisional licensure.

144 F. The Board shall issue a license to an individual seeking initial licensure who has not completed  
145 professional assessments as prescribed by the Board, if such individual (i) holds a provisional license that will  
146 expire within three months or, at the discretion of the school board and division superintendent, within six  
147 months if the individual has received a satisfactory mid-year performance review in the current school year;  
148 (ii) is employed by a school board; (iii) is recommended for licensure by the division superintendent; (iv) has  
149 attempted, unsuccessfully, to obtain a qualifying score on the professional assessments as prescribed by the  
150 Board; (v) has received an evaluation rating of proficient or above on the performance standards for each year  
151 of the provisional license, and such evaluation was conducted in a manner consistent with the Guidelines for  
152 Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents; and  
153 (vi) meets all other requirements for initial licensure.

154 G. Each division superintendent may waive for any individual whom he seeks to employ as a career and  
155 technical education teacher and who is also seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an  
156 endorsement in the area of career and technical education any applicable requirement set forth in subsection  
157 C or subdivision D 2, 4, or 6.

158 H. The Board's regulations shall require that initial licensure for principals and assistant principals be  
159 contingent upon passage of an assessment as prescribed by the Board.

160 I. The Board shall establish criteria in its regulations to effectuate the substitution of experiential learning  
161 for coursework for those persons seeking initial licensure through an alternate route as defined in Board  
162 regulations. Such alternate routes shall include eligibility for any individual to receive, notwithstanding any  
163 provision of law to the contrary, a renewable one-year license to teach in public high schools in the  
164 Commonwealth if he has:

165 1. Received a graduate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;

166 2. Completed at least 30 credit hours of teaching experience as an instructor at a regionally accredited  
167 institution of higher education;

168 3. Received qualifying scores on the professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Board, including  
169 the content-area assessment for the endorsement sought. Such assessments for any individual seeking initial  
170 licensure through an alternate route with an endorsement in early/primary education preschool through grade  
171 three, elementary education preschool through grade six, special education general curriculum kindergarten  
172 through grade 12, special education deaf and hard of hearing preschool through grade 12, or special education  
173 blindness/visual impairments preschool through grade 12 or as a reading specialist shall include a rigorous  
174 test of science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction; and

175 4. Met the requirements set forth in subdivisions D 1 and 3.

176 J. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Board (i) may provide for the issuance of a  
177 provisional license, valid for a period not to exceed three years, pursuant to *clause (i) of subdivision D 5* or to  
178 any person who does not meet the requirements of this section or any other requirement for licensure imposed  
179 by law; (ii) shall provide for the issuance of a provisional license, valid for a period not to exceed three  
180 years, pursuant to *clause (ii) of subdivisions D 5*; (iii) shall provide for the issuance of a provisional license,

181 valid for a period not to exceed three years, to any former member of the Armed Forces of the United States  
182 or the Virginia National Guard who has received an honorable discharge and has the appropriate level of  
183 experience or training but does not meet the requirements for a renewable license; and ~~(iii)~~ (iv) may provide  
184 for the issuance of a provisional license, valid for a period not to exceed three years, to any individual who  
185 has held within the last five years a valid and officially issued and recognized license or certification to teach  
186 issued by an entity outside of the United States but does not meet the requirements for a renewable license if  
187 the individual's license or certification to teach has been evaluated and verified by an entity approved by the  
188 Department.

189 K. The Board's licensure regulations shall also provide for licensure by reciprocity:

190 1. With comparable endorsement areas for those individuals holding a valid out-of-state teaching license  
191 and national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a nationally  
192 recognized certification program approved by the Board. The application for such individuals shall require  
193 evidence of such valid licensure and national certification and shall not require official student transcripts;  
194 and

195 2. For any spouse of an active duty or reserve member of the Armed Forces of the United States or a  
196 member of the Virginia National Guard who has obtained a valid out-of-state license, with full credentials  
197 and without deficiencies, that is in force at the time the application for a Virginia license is received by the  
198 Department. Each such individual shall establish a file in the Department by submitting a complete  
199 application packet, which shall include official student transcripts and an official copy of the military  
200 permanent assignment orders of the individual's spouse. No service requirements or licensing assessments  
201 shall be required for any such individual. The Department shall determine and communicate such individual's  
202 eligibility for licensure by reciprocity within 15 business days of receipt of the complete application packet.

203 L. The Board's licensure regulations shall also provide for universal licensure by reciprocity for any  
204 individual who holds a valid out-of-state teaching license with full credentials and without deficiencies that  
205 has been in force for at least three years prior to and is in force at the time of application. No service  
206 requirements or licensing assessments shall be required for any individual who applies for universal licensure  
207 by reciprocity. Any individual who applies for universal licensure by reciprocity shall provide a copy of the  
208 individual's out-of-state teaching license that meets the criteria set forth in this subsection. Any such  
209 individual shall be subject to the provisions of §§ 22.1-296.2 and 22.1-296.4. The Department shall prioritize  
210 applications for universal licensure by reciprocity.

211 M. The Board shall include in its regulations an alternate route to licensure for elementary education  
212 preschool through grade six and an alternate route to licensure for special education general curriculum  
213 kindergarten through grade 12. Each such alternate route to licensure shall require individuals to (i) meet the  
214 qualifying scores on the content area assessment prescribed by the Board for the endorsements sought and (ii)  
215 complete an alternative certification program that provides training in the pedagogy and methodology of the  
216 respective content or special education areas prescribed by the Board. The curriculum of any such alternative  
217 certification program shall be approved by the Board. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the Board  
218 from establishing other alternate routes to licensure.

219 N. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Board, upon recommendation of the division  
220 superintendent or school board, may provide for the issuance of a valid one-year nonrenewable local  
221 eligibility license to any individual who (i) received a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited  
222 institution of higher education and (ii) has experience or training in a subject or content area as the local  
223 school board and division superintendent may deem appropriate for the applicable teaching position or  
224 endorsement area. Any such one-year nonrenewable local eligibility license shall be issued in accordance  
225 with the following criteria:

226 1. Each school board shall ensure that the number of teachers employed by the school board under such  
227 local eligibility license does not exceed five percent of the teachers employed by such school board during  
228 the preceding school year;

229 2. No school board shall issue such local eligibility license to any individual who is (i) seeking to provide  
230 instruction in special education or (ii) eligible for a collegiate professional license or postgraduate  
231 professional license;

232 3. Any individual who is issued a local eligibility license pursuant to this subsection shall be required to  
233 complete within such one-year period the requirements set forth in subsection C and subdivisions D 1, 3, 6, 8,  
234 and 9 as well as any additional training requirements that may be prescribed by the school board and division  
235 superintendent;

236 4. Such local eligibility license shall only be valid within the issuing school division;

237 5. Each school board may, upon an individual's completion of a local eligibility license, issue a  
238 provisional license to such individual upon receiving from the division superintendent (i) a recommendation  
239 for such license and (ii) a satisfactory performance evaluation for such individual for the local eligibility  
240 licensure period;

241 6. Any individual issued a one-year local eligibility license shall be considered a probationary teacher and

242 shall be subject to the probationary terms of employment pursuant to § 22.1-303;

243 7. Any teacher employed under a one-year local eligibility license shall be issued a collegiate professional  
244 or postgraduate professional license upon the expiration of the local eligibility license if such teacher, before  
245 or by the expiration of such local eligibility license, (i) receives a recommendation from the division  
246 superintendent and the school board, (ii) satisfies all requirements for the applicable license pursuant to  
247 relevant law and regulations, and (iii) satisfies any other criteria as may be prescribed by the Board; and

248 8. The Department's Office of Licensure shall review each local eligibility license within a month of  
249 issuance to any individual to ensure compliance with all Board regulations.

250 O. The Board, in its regulations providing for licensure by reciprocity established pursuant to subsections  
251 K and L, shall (i) permit applicants to submit third-party employment verification forms and (ii) grant special  
252 consideration to individuals who have successfully completed a program offered by a provider that is  
253 accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

254 P. The Board shall develop guidelines that establish a process to permit a school board or any organization  
255 sponsored by a school board to petition the Board for approval of an alternate route to licensure that may be  
256 used to meet the requirements for a provisional or renewable license or any endorsement. Any such alternate  
257 route may include alternatives to the regulatory requirements for teacher preparation, including alternative  
258 professional assessments and coursework. The petitioner may proffer or the Board may impose conditions in  
259 conjunction with the approval of such petition.

260 **§ 22.1-298.1. (Effective July 1, 2030) Regulations governing licensure.**

261 A. As used in this section:

262 "Alternate route to licensure" means a nontraditional route to teacher licensure available to individuals  
263 who meet the criteria specified in the guidelines developed pursuant to subsection O or regulations issued by  
264 the Board.

265 "Industry certification credential" means an active career and technical education credential that is earned  
266 by successfully completing a Board-approved industry certification examination, being issued a professional  
267 license in the Commonwealth, or successfully completing an occupational competency examination.

268 "Licensure by reciprocity" means the issuance of a license as a teacher in the Commonwealth to an  
269 individual coming into the Commonwealth from another state when that individual meets certain conditions  
270 specified in the Board's regulations.

271 "Professional teacher's assessment" means those tests mandated for licensure as prescribed by the Board.

272 "Provisional license" means a nonrenewable license issued by the Board of by a division superintendent  
273 as permitted pursuant to subdivision D 5 for a specified period of time, not to exceed three years, to an  
274 individual who may be employed by a school division in the Commonwealth and who generally meets the  
275 requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, but who may need to take additional  
276 coursework, pass additional assessments, or meet alternative evaluation standards to be fully licensed with a  
277 renewable license.

278 "Renewable license" means a license issued by the Board for 10 years to an individual who meets the  
279 requirements specified in the Board's regulations.

280 "Universal licensure by reciprocity" means the issuance of a license as a teacher in the Commonwealth to  
281 any individual who holds a valid out-of-state teaching license with full credentials and without deficiencies  
282 that has been in force and in use by the individual as an employed teacher in a non-virtual classroom setting  
283 at a public or private elementary or secondary school for at least three years prior to and is in force at the time  
284 the Department receives such individual's application for a license as a teacher in the Commonwealth.

285 B. The Board shall prescribe, by regulation, the requirements for the licensure of teachers and other  
286 school personnel required to hold a license. Such regulations shall include procedures for (i) the denial,  
287 suspension, cancellation, revocation, and reinstatement of licensure; (ii) written reprimand of license holders  
288 on grounds established by the Board, in accordance with law, notice of which shall be made by the  
289 Superintendent to division superintendents or their designated representatives; and (iii) the immediate and  
290 thorough investigation by the division superintendent or his designee of any complaint alleging that a license  
291 holder has engaged in conduct that may form the basis for the revocation of his license. At a minimum, such  
292 procedures for investigations contained in such regulations shall require (a) the division superintendent to  
293 petition for the revocation of the license upon completing such investigation and finding that there is  
294 reasonable cause to believe that the license holder has engaged in conduct that forms the basis for revocation  
295 of a license; (b) the school board to proceed to a hearing on such petition for revocation within 90 days of the  
296 mailing of a copy of the petition to the license holder, unless the license holder requests the cancellation of  
297 his license in accordance with Board regulations; and (c) the school board to provide a copy of the  
298 investigative file and such petition for revocation to the Superintendent at the time that the hearing is  
299 scheduled. The Board shall revoke the license of any person for whom it has received a notice of dismissal or  
300 resignation pursuant to subsection F of § 22.1-313 and, in the case of a person who is the subject of a founded  
301 complaint of child abuse or neglect, after all rights to any administrative appeal provided by § 63.2-1526 have  
302 been exhausted. In the case of a teacher who is the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse or neglect

303 and whose license has been revoked pursuant to this subsection, in the event that a court reverses such finding  
304 of abuse or neglect and the individual submits to the Department an application for the reinstatement of his  
305 license as a teacher, the Board shall consider and act upon such application no later than 90 days after the  
306 date of submission. Regardless of the authority of any other agency of the Commonwealth to approve  
307 educational programs, only the Board shall have the authority to license teachers to be regularly employed by  
308 school boards, including those teachers employed to provide nursing education.

309 The Board shall prescribe by regulation the licensure requirements for teachers who teach only online  
310 courses, as defined in § 22.1-212.23. Such license shall be valid only for teaching online courses. Teachers  
311 who hold a 10-year renewable license issued by the Board may teach online courses for which they are  
312 properly endorsed.

313 C. The Board's regulations shall include requirements that a person seeking initial licensure:

314 1. Demonstrate proficiency in the relevant content area and other core skills for educators by achieving a  
315 qualifying score on professional assessments or meeting alternative evaluation standards as prescribed by the  
316 Board. Such assessments for any individual seeking initial licensure with an endorsement in early/primary  
317 education preschool through grade three, elementary education preschool through grade six, special education  
318 general curriculum kindergarten through grade 12, special education deaf and hard of hearing preschool  
319 through grade 12, or special education blindness/visual impairments preschool through grade 12 or as a  
320 reading specialist shall include a rigorous test of science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy  
321 instruction;

322 2. Complete study in attention deficit disorder;

323 3. Complete study in gifted education, including the use of multiple criteria to identify gifted students; and

324 4. Complete study in methods of improving communication between schools and families and ways of  
325 increasing family involvement in student learning at home and at school.

326 D. In addition, such regulations shall include requirements that:

327 1. Every person seeking initial licensure and persons seeking licensure renewal as teachers who have not  
328 completed such study shall complete study in child abuse recognition and intervention in accordance with  
329 curriculum guidelines developed by the Board in consultation with the Department of Social Services that are  
330 relevant to the specific teacher licensure routes;

331 2. Every person seeking renewal of a license shall complete all renewal requirements, including  
332 professional development in a manner prescribed by the Board, except that no person seeking renewal of a  
333 license shall be required to satisfy any such requirement by completing coursework and earning credit at an  
334 institution of higher education;

335 3. Every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license shall provide evidence of completion of  
336 certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated  
337 external defibrillators. The certification or training program shall (i) be based on the current national  
338 evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an  
339 automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the American Heart Association or the  
340 American Red Cross, and (ii) include hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary  
341 resuscitation. The Board shall provide a waiver for this requirement for any person with a disability whose  
342 disability prohibits such person from completing the certification or training;

343 4. Every person seeking licensure with an endorsement as a teacher of the blind and visually impaired  
344 shall demonstrate proficiency in reading and writing Braille;

345 5. Every teacher seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth with an endorsement in the area of career  
346 and technical education shall have an industry certification credential in the area in which the teacher seeks  
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348 *career and technical education* has (i) not attained an industry certification credential in the area in which the  
349 teacher seeks endorsement, the division superintendent may issue the teacher a provisional license to allow  
350 time for the teacher to attain such credential *or (ii) a high school diploma or a high school equivalency*  
351 *certificate and an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license in the area in which such person*  
352 *seeks an endorsement but has not completed all requirements specified in the Board's regulations for*  
353 *licensure, the Board shall issue the person a provisional license to allow time for such person to complete, in*  
354 *lieu of the outstanding requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, coursework in*  
355 *classroom management, curriculum and instruction in career and technical education, and human growth*  
356 *and development or educational technology;*

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358 provided by the Department, on the indicators of dyslexia, as that term is defined by the Board pursuant to  
359 regulations, and the evidence-based interventions and accommodations for dyslexia;

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364 subsection D of § 23.1-902 shall receive instruction or training on positive behavior interventions and  
 365 supports; crisis prevention and de-escalation; the use of physical restraint and seclusion, consistent with  
 366 regulations of the Board; and appropriate alternative methods to reduce and prevent the need for the use of  
 367 physical restraint and seclusion;

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 371 social sciences shall complete instruction in African American history, as prescribed by the Board;

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 374 understanding the role of general education teachers on the individualized education program team; (iii)  
 375 implementing effective models of collaborative instruction, including co-teaching; and (iv) understanding the  
 376 goals and benefits of inclusive education for all students; and

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 378 through grade three, elementary education preschool through grade six, special education general curriculum  
 379 kindergarten through grade 12, special education deaf and hard of hearing preschool through grade 12, or  
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 381 complete study in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.

382 E. No teacher who seeks a provisional license shall be required to meet any requirement set forth in  
 383 subdivision D 1, 3, 6, or 8 as a condition of such licensure, but each such teacher shall complete each such  
 384 requirement during the first year of provisional licensure.

385 F. The Board shall issue a license to an individual seeking initial licensure who has not completed  
 386 professional assessments as prescribed by the Board, if such individual (i) holds a provisional license that will  
 387 expire within three months or, at the discretion of the school board and division superintendent, within six  
 388 months if the individual has received a satisfactory mid-year performance review in the current school year;  
 389 (ii) is employed by a school board; (iii) is recommended for licensure by the division superintendent; (iv) has  
 390 attempted, unsuccessfully, to obtain a qualifying score on the professional assessments as prescribed by the  
 391 Board; (v) has received an evaluation rating of proficient or above on the performance standards for each year  
 392 of the provisional license, and such evaluation was conducted in a manner consistent with the Guidelines for  
 393 Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents; and  
 394 (vi) meets all other requirements for initial licensure.

395 G. Each division superintendent may waive for any individual whom he seeks to employ as a career and  
 396 technical education teacher and who is also seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an  
 397 endorsement in the area of career and technical education any applicable requirement set forth in subsection  
 398 C or subdivision D 2, 4, or 6.

399 H. The Board's regulations shall require that initial licensure for principals and assistant principals be  
 400 contingent upon passage of an assessment as prescribed by the Board.

401 I. The Board shall establish criteria in its regulations to effectuate the substitution of experiential learning  
 402 for coursework for those persons seeking initial licensure through an alternate route as defined in Board  
 403 regulations. Such alternate routes shall include eligibility for any individual to receive, notwithstanding any  
 404 provision of law to the contrary, a renewable one-year license to teach in public high schools in the  
 405 Commonwealth if he has:

406 1. Received a graduate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;

407 2. Completed at least 30 credit hours of teaching experience as an instructor at a regionally accredited  
 408 institution of higher education;

409 3. Received qualifying scores on the professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Board, including  
 410 the content-area assessment for the endorsement sought. Such assessments for any individual seeking initial  
 411 licensure through an alternate route with an endorsement in early/primary education preschool through grade  
 412 three, elementary education preschool through grade six, special education general curriculum kindergarten  
 413 through grade 12, special education deaf and hard of hearing preschool through grade 12, or special education  
 414 blindness/visual impairments preschool through grade 12 or as a reading specialist shall include a rigorous  
 415 test of science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction; and

416 4. Met the requirements set forth in subdivisions D 1 and 3.

417 J. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Board (i) may provide for the issuance of a  
 418 provisional license, valid for a period not to exceed three years, pursuant to *clause (i) of subdivision D 5* or to  
 419 any person who does not meet the requirements of this section or any other requirement for licensure imposed  
 420 by law; (ii) shall provide for the issuance of a provisional license, valid for a period not to exceed three  
 421 years, pursuant to *clause (ii) of subdivisions D 5*; (iii) shall provide for the issuance of a provisional license,  
 422 valid for a period not to exceed three years, to any former member of the Armed Forces of the United States  
 423 or the Virginia National Guard who has received an honorable discharge and has the appropriate level of  
 424 experience or training but does not meet the requirements for a renewable license; and ~~(iii)~~ (iv) may provide

425 for the issuance of a provisional license, valid for a period not to exceed three years, to any individual who  
426 has held within the last five years a valid and officially issued and recognized license or certification to teach  
427 issued by an entity outside of the United States but does not meet the requirements for a renewable license if  
428 the individual's license or certification to teach has been evaluated and verified by an entity approved by the  
429 Department.

430 K. The Board's licensure regulations shall also provide for licensure by reciprocity:

431 1. With comparable endorsement areas for those individuals holding a valid out-of-state teaching license  
432 and national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a nationally  
433 recognized certification program approved by the Board. The application for such individuals shall require  
434 evidence of such valid licensure and national certification and shall not require official student transcripts;  
435 and

436 2. For any spouse of an active duty or reserve member of the Armed Forces of the United States or a  
437 member of the Virginia National Guard who has obtained a valid out-of-state license, with full credentials  
438 and without deficiencies, that is in force at the time the application for a Virginia license is received by the  
439 Department. Each such individual shall establish a file in the Department by submitting a complete  
440 application packet, which shall include official student transcripts and an official copy of the military  
441 permanent assignment orders of the individual's spouse. No service requirements or licensing assessments  
442 shall be required for any such individual. The Department shall determine and communicate such individual's  
443 eligibility for licensure by reciprocity within 15 business days of receipt of the complete application packet.

444 L. The Board's licensure regulations shall also provide for universal licensure by reciprocity for any  
445 individual who holds a valid out-of-state teaching license with full credentials and without deficiencies that  
446 has been in force for at least three years prior to and is in force at the time of applications. No services  
447 requirements or licensing assessments shall be required for any individual who applies for universal licensure  
448 by reciprocity. Any individual who applies for universal licensure by reciprocity shall provide a copy of the  
449 individual's out-of-state teaching license that meets the criteria set forth in this subsection. Any such  
450 individual shall be subject to the provisions of §§ 22.1-296.2 and 22.1-296.4. The Department shall prioritize  
451 applications for universal licensure by reciprocity.

452 M. The Board shall include in its regulations an alternate route to licensure for elementary education  
453 preschool through grade six and an alternate route to licensure for special education general curriculum  
454 kindergarten through grade 12. Each such alternate route to licensure shall require individuals to (i) meet the  
455 qualifying scores on the content area assessment prescribed by the Board for the endorsements sought and (ii)  
456 complete an alternative certification program that provides training in the pedagogy and methodology of the  
457 respective content or special education areas prescribed by the Board. The curriculum of any such alternative  
458 certification program shall be approved by the Board. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the Board  
459 from establishing other alternate routes to licensure.

460 N. The Board, in its regulations providing for licensure by reciprocity established pursuant to subsections  
461 K and L, shall (i) permit applicants to submit third-party employment verification forms and (ii) grant special  
462 consideration to individuals who have successfully completed a program offered by a provider that is  
463 accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

464 O. The Board shall develop guidelines that establish a process to permit a school board or any  
465 organization sponsored by a school board to petition the Board for approval of an alternate route to licensure  
466 that may be used to meet the requirements for a provisional or renewable license or any endorsement. Any  
467 such alternate route may include alternatives to the regulatory requirements for teacher preparation, including  
468 alternative professional assessments and coursework. The petitioner may proffer or the Board may impose  
469 conditions in conjunction with the approval of such petition.

470 **2. That the Board of Education shall amend its regulations as necessary in accordance with the**  
471 **provisions of this act.**