

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1308

Short Title: Lifetime Cert. After Teaching 50 Years. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Moore; Brown and Faison.

Referred to: Education.

April 5, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR LIFETIME CERTIFICATION FOR TEACHERS
AFTER FIFTY YEARS OF TEACHING.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-296(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to maintain the highest quality teacher education programs and school administrator programs in order to enhance the competence of professional personnel certified in North Carolina. To the end that teacher preparation programs are upgraded to reflect a more rigorous course of study, the State Board of Education, as lead agency in coordination and cooperation with the University Board of Governors, the Board of Community Colleges and such other public and private agencies as are necessary, shall continue to refine the several certification requirements, standards for approval of institutions of teacher education, standards for institution-based innovative and experimental programs, standards for implementing consortium-based teacher education, and standards for improved efficiencies in the administration of the approved programs. The certification program shall provide for initial certification after completion of preservice training, continuing certification after three years of teaching experience, and certificate renewal every five years thereafter, until the retirement of the teacher. The last certificate renewal received prior to retirement shall remain in effect for five years after retirement. The certification program shall also provide for lifetime certification after 50 years of teaching.

The State Board of Education, as lead agency in coordination with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and any other public and private agencies as necessary, shall continue to raise standards for entry into teacher education programs.

The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall evaluate and develop enhanced requirements for continuing certification. The new requirements shall reflect more rigorous standards for continuing certification and to the extent possible shall be aligned with quality

1 professional development programs that reflect State priorities for improving student
2 achievement.

3 The State Board of Education, in consultation with local boards of education and the
4 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall reevaluate and enhance
5 the requirements for renewal of teacher certificates. The State Board shall consider
6 modifications in the certificate renewal achievement and to make it a mechanism for
7 teachers to renew continually their knowledge and professional skills. The State Board
8 shall adopt new standards for the renewal of teacher certificates by May 15, 1998.

9 The standards for approval of institutions of teacher education shall require that
10 teacher education programs for all students include demonstrated competencies in (i)
11 the identification and education of children with disabilities and (ii) positive
12 management of student behavior and effective communication techniques for defusing
13 and deescalating disruptive or dangerous behavior. The State Board of Education shall
14 incorporate the criteria developed in accordance with G.S. 116-74.21 for assessing
15 proposals under the School Administrator Training Program into its school
16 administrator program approval standards.

17 All North Carolina institutions of higher education that offer teacher education
18 programs, masters degree programs in education, or masters degree programs in school
19 administration shall provide performance reports to the State Board of Education. The
20 performance reports shall follow a common format, shall be submitted according to a
21 plan developed by the State Board, and shall include the information required under the
22 plan developed by the State Board."

23 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.