

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 681
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/25/17

Short Title: Teacher Licensure/Military Spouses.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 11, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR PROCEDURES TO DECREASE THE BURDEN ON
3 MILITARY SPOUSES IN OBTAINING NC TEACHER LICENSES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 93B-15.1(i) reads as rewritten:

6 "(i) For the purposes of this section, the State Board of Education shall be considered an
7 occupational licensing board when issuing teacher licenses under ~~G.S.~~
8 ~~115C-296~~.G.S. 115C-296, and in addition to the requirements of this section, shall comply with
9 the following:

10 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 115C-296(a) and subdivision (b)(1)
11 of this section, a military spouse applicant shall be exempt from testing
12 requirements established by the State Board of Education for an initial
13 bachelor's degree license or graduate degree license if the applicant meets
14 the following criteria:

- 15 a. The applicant meets the requirements of subsection (b) of this section
16 but for the testing requirements of G.S. 115-296(a).
17 b. The applicant's spouse is the subject of a military transfer to North
18 Carolina.
19 c. The applicant has at least three years of teaching experience in the
20 five years prior to submitting the application.
21 d. The applicant has received satisfactory performance evaluations and
22 met expectations of student growth in the field of licensure in the
23 three most recent years of teaching.

24 (2) Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-296(a), a military spouse applicant shall be
25 eligible for a temporary license of two years while the applicant satisfies the
26 requirements for a North Carolina teacher license if the applicant meets the
27 following criteria:

- 28 a. The applicant meets the requirements of subsection (b) of this section
29 but for the testing requirements of G.S. 115C-296(a).
30 b. The applicant's spouse is the subject of a military transfer to North
31 Carolina.
32 c. The applicant does not have the necessary teaching experience to
33 qualify for the testing exemption in subdivision (1) of this
34 subsection."

35 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-296 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

36 "(a4) The State Board shall license military spouses in accordance with G.S. 93B-15.1."



1 **SECTION 3.(a)** By October 15, 2017, the State Board of Education shall develop
2 procedures for Regional Alternative Licensing Centers (RALCs) and approved educator
3 preparation programs to efficiently evaluate and advise military spouses applying for a lateral
4 entry teaching license, including expediting the evaluation process and addressing obstacles to
5 licensure for military spouses. To assist a military spouse applicant in meeting the requirements
6 for a North Carolina teaching license, the State Board shall require any RALC or educator
7 preparation program evaluating a military spouse who was granted a three-year initial teaching
8 license under G.S. 115C-296.12, but was not employed continuously for the three-year
9 licensure period due to a deployment or reassignment of the applicant's spouse, to contact any
10 other RALCs or educator preparation programs that previously evaluated the military spouse to
11 obtain relevant documentation or information for licensure.

12 **SECTION 3.(b)** By November 15, 2017, the State Board of Education shall report
13 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the procedures developed for
14 RALCs and educator preparation programs in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

15 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Public Instruction shall study the licensure
16 process as it relates to military spouses, including the average number of military spouses who
17 apply for teacher licensure in North Carolina, the average time it takes a military spouse's
18 application to be approved, and the feasibility of expediting the processing of licensure
19 applications submitted by military spouses. The Department shall report its findings to the Joint
20 Legislative Education Oversight Committee by November 15, 2017.

21 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to applications
22 for teacher licensure submitted on or after that date.