



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 125

SENATE BILL NO. 479

By Haile, Bowling, White, Akbari, Gardenhire, Powers

Substituted for: House Bill No. 533

By Weaver, Howell, Smith, Hulse, Carr, Reedy, Rudder, Moody, White, Warner, Faison, Casada, Cepicky, Ragan, Haston, Dixie, McKenzie, Parkinson, Terry, Leatherwood, Calfee, Littleton, Lynn, Curcio

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to licensure.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-108(c), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

(6)(A) When issuing a license to teach in the public schools to an individual who possesses an active teaching license in another state, the state board of education shall issue a teaching license that is equivalent to the teaching license that the individual possesses in the other state, if that state has a reciprocal agreement with the state board of education pursuant to § 49-5-109.

(B) If an individual applies for a supervisor's or principal's license, and the individual possesses an active supervisor's or principal's license in another state that has entered into a reciprocal agreement with the state board pursuant to § 49-5-109, then the department of education shall issue the individual a supervisor's or principal's license that is equivalent to the license that the individual possesses in the other state; provided, that the individual served as a supervisor or principal in the other state for no less than one (1) school year.

(C) When issuing a supervisor's, principal's, or public school teacher's license to an individual who is a military spouse and who possesses an active supervisor's, principal's, or public school teacher's license in another state, the department of education shall issue a supervisor's, principal's, or public school teacher's license that is equivalent to the license that the individual possesses in the other state upon the department's receipt of documentation from the individual evidencing the individual's active military dependent status.

(D) The department of education shall submit a report on the effectiveness of supervisors, principals, and public school teachers who obtained a Tennessee educator license through an out-of-state pathway compared with the effectiveness of other supervisors, principals, and public school teachers licensed in this state to the education committee of the senate and the education instruction committee of the house of representatives by July 31, 2022, and by July 31 each year thereafter. The annual report required under this subdivision (c)(6)(D) must be posted on the department's website.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-108(c)(5)(C), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the subdivision:

If the supervisor, principal, or public school teacher did not receive an overall performance effectiveness level during one (1) or both of the two (2) years immediately following the issuance of the individual's initial license, then the individual may choose to use the individual's most recent overall performance effectiveness level that is available to demonstrate an overall performance effectiveness level of "above expectations" or "significantly above expectations" for purposes of this subdivision (c)(5)(C), or the supervisor,

principal, or public school teacher may request that the director of schools or the director of the public charter school submit a recommendation to the department of education on the supervisor's, principal's, or public school teacher's effectiveness. If a director of schools or the director of a public charter school submits a recommendation to the department attesting to the effectiveness of a supervisor, principal, or public school teacher, then the commissioner shall consider the requirements of this subdivision (c)(5)(C) met, and shall not require the supervisor, principal, or public school teacher to take an assessment to advance or renew a license.

SECTION 3. The state board of education may promulgate rules necessary to effectuate the purpose of this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 4. Section 1 of this act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to educator licenses issued on or after that date. Sections 2 and 3 of this act take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: March 29, 2021


RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 13th day of April 2021


BILL LEE, GOVERNOR