

S.F. No. 781 – Modifying Teacher Licensing, Hiring, and Dismissal Provisions (A-2 Delete Everything Amendment)

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Section 1. Professional License. Defines professional license as a Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, or Tier 4 teacher license issued by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB).

Section 2. Application requirements. Strikes the requirement for a school district or charter school to post a teacher position and not being able to hire an acceptable teacher with a higher tiered license before hiring a Tier 1 licensed teacher.

Effective Date: Makes the section effective immediately.

Section 3. Term of license and renewal. Strikes the requirement for a school district or charter school to post a teacher position and not being able to hire an acceptable teacher with a higher tiered license before requesting renewal of a Tier 1 licensed teacher.

Effective Date: Makes the section effective immediately.

Section 4. Hiring, dismissing. Prohibits a school district from giving preference in the hiring or dismissal of a teacher based on the teacher's seniority. Requires a school district to report all new teacher hires and terminations by race and ethnicity to PELSB.

Effective Date: Makes the section effective for collective bargaining agreements after July 1, 2021.

Section 5. Negotiated unrequested leave of absence. Prohibits the plan negotiated between the school district and the teachers from requiring the school board to place a teacher on unrequested leave of absence first based on their tier of licensure.

Effective Date: Makes the section effective for collective bargaining agreements after July 1, 2021.

Section 6. Negotiated unrequested leave of absence. Prohibits the plan negotiated between the school district and the teachers from requiring the school board to place a teacher on unrequested leave of absence first based on their tier of licensure.

Effective Date: Makes the section effective for collective bargaining agreements after July 1, 2021.

Section 7. Hiring and dismissal. Prohibits a school district from giving preference in the hiring or dismissal of a teacher based on the teacher's seniority. Requires a school district to report all new teacher hires and terminations by race and ethnicity to PELSB.

Effective Date: Makes the section effective for collective bargaining agreements after July 1, 2021.

Section 8. Establishment. Allows PELSB to award Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color Grants (CUGMEC) to allow teacher candidates to meet the requirements of a Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 license and allow Minnesota alternative teacher preparation programs to receive a grant.

Section 9. Competitive grants. Amends the grant award criteria to include the number or percentage of teacher candidates being supported by the program who are of color or who are American Indian. Strikes the priority for institutions that received grants under the 2017 session law.

Section 10. Teacher mentoring, induction, and retention programs. Requires a district to prioritize mentoring programs for teaching residents, teachers of color, teachers who are American Indian, teachers in licensure shortage areas, teachers with special needs, or experienced teachers in need of peer coaching.

Section 11. Applications. Directs PELSB to make teacher mentorship grant applications available to sites interested in developing or expanding a mentorship program.

Section 12. Paraprofessional pathway to teacher licensure. Allows a school district with an alternative teacher preparation program to receive a Grow Your Own grant.