

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2004 SESSION

CHAPTER 920

An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-299.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to local eligibility licenses for public school teachers.

[H 1048]

Approved April 15, 2004

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-299.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-299.3. Three-year local eligibility license.

A. Local school boards shall be authorized, upon recommendation of the local superintendent, to issue a valid three-year nonrenewable local eligibility license to classroom teacher candidates in accordance with the following criteria:

1. *No such license shall be issued to teachers providing instruction in special education, and the issuance of such license shall be restricted to those teachers providing instruction in courses that do not represent core academic areas as defined by the federal No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, as it may be amended.*

2. No more than ~~ten~~ 10 percent of the classroom teachers employed by the relevant local school division shall hold such local licenses, based on the number of classroom teachers employed by such school division during the preceding school year.

2 3. The applicant for a three-year local eligibility license shall have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education and shall have such experience or training in a subject or content area as the local school board and superintendent may deem appropriate for the intended teaching assignment.

3 4. The holder of a three-year local eligibility license shall be required to complete such training within the three-year licensure period as may be specified by the division superintendent, the school board, and standards prescribed by the Board of Education which shall include, but need not be limited to, curriculum and instruction, including educational technology, reading, and other specific course content relating to the Standards of Learning, differentiation of instruction, classroom/behavior management, and human growth and development.

4 5. The local eligibility license shall only be valid within the issuing school division.

5 6. No local eligibility license shall be issued if the teacher candidate/applicant is eligible for a collegiate professional or postgraduate professional license issued by the Department of Education.

6 7. Teachers issued a three-year local eligibility license shall be considered probationary teachers, shall not be eligible for continuing contract status while employed under the authority of a local license, and shall be subject to the probationary terms of employment specified in § 22.1-303.

B. Except as specified in this section and § 22.1-303, a teacher employed while holding a local eligibility license shall be entitled and subject to all other requirements and rights provided by law or regulation.

C. Any teacher employed pursuant to a local eligibility license shall be issued a collegiate professional or postgraduate professional license upon the expiration of the local eligibility license upon satisfaction of the following conditions: (i) recommendation by the division superintendent and the school board for such licensure; (ii) the completion of three successful years of teaching experience while holding a valid three-year local eligibility license as certified by the division superintendent and the school board; (iii) achieving a satisfactory score on the professional teacher's examinations required by the Board; and (iv) such standards as may be prescribed by the Board of Education.

D. Local school boards shall provide to the Board of Education information about teachers receiving local eligibility licenses and other data related to the local school division's issuance of eligibility licenses as prescribed by the Board. The Board is authorized to revoke and reinstate a local school board's authority to issue local eligibility licenses upon a determination of any violation of this section.