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HOUSE BILL NO. 279

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 1, 2016

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-299.5, relating to teacher licensure; Virginia STEM adjunct faculty licenses.*

Patrons—Byron, Garrett and Ransone

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-299.5 as follows:

§ 22.1-299.5. Virginia STEM adjunct faculty license.

A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Board shall establish a Virginia STEM adjunct faculty provisional license (provisional license) and a Virginia STEM adjunct faculty renewable license (renewable license) for qualified individuals to teach high school science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) courses for no more than 50 percent of the instructional day or year, on average.

B. The Board shall issue a one-year provisional license to an individual who:

1. Submits an application to the Board;

2. Holds, at minimum, a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;

3. Holds a professional technical license or industry certification recognized in the STEM career and technical area for which the applicant seeks adjunct licensure, if applicable;

4. Either (i) has completed an undergraduate or graduate major from a regionally accredited institution of higher education in the STEM content area for which an endorsement is sought or (ii) has completed the content area requirements for an endorsement in a teaching area or the equivalent through verifiable experience or academic study;

5. Has at least five years of full-time work experience or its equivalent in the area in which adjunct faculty licensure is sought; and

6. Has obtained qualifying scores on the communication and literacy professional teacher's assessment prescribed by the Board.

C. The employing school division shall assign a mentor to supervise a provisional licensee during his first year of service.

D. A provisional licensee shall complete nine semester hours of specialized professional studies credit from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Such coursework shall include human growth and development, curriculum, instructional, and technology procedures, and classroom and behavior management and may be completed through distance learning programs.

E. The Board may grant a one-year extension of a provisional license if the provisional licensee has not completed the required coursework or the employing school division decides the provisional licensee requires additional preparation. The Board shall grant an extension only upon the request of the employing school division. The Board may grant up to two extensions of a provisional license for a total of three years of provisional licensure.

F. The Board shall issue a five-year renewable license to a provisional licensee who has completed the required coursework and is recommended for a renewable license by the employing school division.

INTRODUCED

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