

COMPETENCY LICENSING FOR EDUCATORS

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: David E. Lifferth

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends educator competency-based licensing requirements.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ amends educator competency-based licensing requirements; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53A-6-104.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2004, Chapter 19

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53A-6-104.5** is amended to read:

53A-6-104.5. Licensing by competency.

~~[(1) A competency-based license to teach may be issued based on the demonstrated competence of a teacher as provided in this section.]~~

~~[(2)]~~ (1) A local school board or charter school may request, and the State Board of



28 Education shall grant, upon receipt of documentation from the local school board or charter
29 school verifying the person's qualifications as specified in this section, a competency-based
30 license to a person who meets the qualifications specified in this section and Section
31 [53A-6-401](#).

32 ~~[(3)]~~ (2) A local school board or charter school may request a competency-based
33 license if the candidate meets the following qualifications:

34 (a) a license candidate who teaches one or more core academic subjects in an
35 elementary school shall:

36 (i) hold at least a bachelor's degree; and

37 (ii) have demonstrated, by passing a rigorous state test, subject knowledge and teaching
38 skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and other areas of the basic elementary school
39 curriculum;

40 (b) a license candidate who teaches one or more core academic subjects in a middle or
41 secondary school shall:

42 (i) hold at least a bachelor's degree; and

43 (ii) have demonstrated a high level of competency in each of the academic subjects in
44 which the teacher teaches by:

45 (A) passing a rigorous state academic subject test in each of the academic subjects in
46 which the teacher teaches; or

47 (B) successful completion, in each of the academic subjects in which the teacher
48 teaches, of an academic major, a graduate degree, course work equivalent to an undergraduate
49 academic major, or advanced certification or credentialing; or

50 (c) a license candidate who teaches subjects other than a core academic subject in an
51 elementary, middle, or high school shall:

52 (i) hold a bachelor's degree, associate's degree, or skill certification; and

53 (ii) have skills, talents, or abilities, as evaluated by the employing entity, that make the
54 person suited for the teaching position.

55 ~~[(4) A school district or charter school:]~~

56 ~~[(a) shall monitor and assess the performance of each teacher holding a~~
57 ~~competency-based license; and]~~

58 ~~[(b) may recommend that the competency-based license holder's training and~~

59 assessment be reviewed by the Utah State Office of Education for a level 1 license.]
60 (3) The board shall approve at least one competency-based teacher certification
61 program that:
62 (a) has issued at least five thousand teaching certifications nationally; or
63 (b) is approved for competency licensing by at least ten other states.
64 (4) (a) A competency-based license applicant may apply directly to the board for a
65 competency-based license.
66 (b) The board shall issue a competency-based license to an applicant described in
67 Subsection (4)(a) if the applicant:
68 (i) provides documentation that the applicant:
69 (A) holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited higher education or
70 postsecondary institution; and
71 (B) is certified in at least one subject area in a competency-based teacher certification
72 program described in Subsection (3); and
73 (ii) passes a background check described in Section [53A-6-401](#).
74 (c) In issuing a license under Subsection (4)(b), the board shall specify, based on an
75 applicant's certification area, which subject area the educator is qualified to teach.
76 (5) A school district or charter school:
77 (a) shall monitor and assess the performance of each teacher holding a
78 competency-based license; and
79 (b) may recommend that the competency-based license holder's training and
80 assessment be reviewed by the board for a level 1 license.

Legislative Review Note
as of 2-5-15 10:04 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel