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AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; CHANGING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE LEVEL ONE TEACHING LICENSE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS; GRANDFATHERING CURRENT LICENSEES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-10A-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 153, Section 39, as amended by Laws 2011, Chapter 36, Section 1 and by Laws 2011, Chapter 95, Section 2) is amended to read:

"22-10A-8. ALTERNATIVE LEVEL ONE LICENSE.--

A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this section, the department shall issue an alternative level one license to a person who is at least eighteen years of age and who:

(1) has completed a baccalaureate degree at an accredited institution of higher education and has received a passing score on a state-approved subject-area examination in the subject area of instruction for which the person is applying for a license; or

(2) has completed a master's degree at an accredited institution of higher education, including completion of a minimum of twelve graduate credit hours in the subject area of instruction for which the person is applying for a license; or

1 (3) has completed a doctoral or law degree
2 at an accredited institution of higher education; and

3 (4) has passed the New Mexico teacher
4 assessments examination, including for elementary licensure
5 beginning January 1, 2013, a rigorous assessment of the
6 candidate's knowledge of the science of teaching reading; and

7 (5) within two years of beginning teaching,
8 completes a minimum of twelve semester hours of instruction
9 in teaching principles in a program approved by the
10 department; or

11 (6) demonstrates to the department, in
12 conjunction with the school district or state agency, that
13 the person has met the department-approved competencies for
14 level one teachers that correspond to the grade level that
15 will be taught.

16 B. A person seeking an alternative level one
17 special education license to teach students with disabilities
18 shall be at least eighteen years of age and meet the
19 educational and assessment requirements of Paragraphs (1)
20 through (4) of Subsection A of this section, as applicable.

21 In addition, the person shall serve a fifteen-week
22 apprenticeship under a level two or three-A special education
23 teacher while taking related and interwoven coursework at a
24 post-secondary educational institution that is designed to
25 connect pedagogical theory with teaching practice, including:

- 1 (1) lesson planning;
- 2 (2) classroom and behavior management for
- 3 students with special needs;
- 4 (3) learning theory;
- 5 (4) foundations of special education; and
- 6 (5) culturally and linguistically relevant
- 7 teaching techniques.

8 C. A degree or examination referred to in
9 Subsection A of this section shall correspond to the subject
10 area of instruction and the particular grade level that will
11 enable the applicant to teach in a competent manner as
12 determined by the department.

13 D. An alternative level one or alternative level
14 one special education teacher shall participate in the same
15 mentorship, evaluation and other professional development
16 requirements as other level one teachers.

17 E. A school district or state agency shall not
18 discriminate against a teacher on the basis that the teacher
19 holds an alternative level one license.

20 F. The department shall provide by rule for
21 training and other requirements to support the use of
22 unlicensed content area experts as resources in classrooms,
23 team teaching, on-line instruction, curriculum development
24 and other purposes."

25 SECTION 2. SAVING CLAUSE.--Persons holding alternative

