



Sen. Toi W. Hutchinson

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09800HB0490sam001

LRB098 03321 NHT 45132 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 490

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 490 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 21B-30 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

7 Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

8 (a) This Section applies beginning on July 1, 2012.

9 (b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
10 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall design
11 and implement a system of examinations, which shall be required
12 prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These examinations
13 and indicators must be based on national and State professional
14 teaching standards, as determined by the State Board of
15 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
16 and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education may adopt

1 such rules as may be necessary to implement and administer this
2 Section. No score on a test required under this Section, other
3 than a test of basic skills, shall be more than 5 years old at
4 the time that an individual makes application for an educator
5 license or endorsement.

6 (c) Applicants seeking a Professional Educator License or
7 an Educator License with Stipulations shall be required to pass
8 a test of basic skills before the license is issued, ~~unless the~~
9 ~~endorsement the individual is seeking does not require passage~~
10 ~~of the test.~~ All applicants completing Illinois-approved,
11 teacher education or school service personnel preparation
12 programs shall be required to pass the State Board of
13 Education's recognized test of basic skills prior to starting
14 their student teaching or starting the final semester of their
15 internship, unless required earlier at the discretion of the
16 recognized, Illinois institution in which they are completing
17 their approved program. ~~No candidate may be fully admitted into~~
18 ~~an educator preparation program at a recognized Illinois~~
19 ~~institution until he or she has passed a test of basic skills.~~
20 An individual who passes a test of basic skills does not need
21 to do so again for subsequent endorsements or other educator
22 licenses.

23 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be
24 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area
25 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There
26 shall be no exception to this requirement. No candidate shall

1 be allowed to student teach, serve as the teacher of record, or
2 begin an internship or residency required for licensure until
3 he or she has passed the applicable content area test.

4 (e) All applicants seeking a State license endorsed in a
5 teaching field shall pass the assessment of professional
6 teaching (APT). Passage of the APT is required for completion
7 of an approved Illinois educator preparation program.

8 (f) Beginning on September 1, 2015, all candidates
9 completing teacher preparation programs in this State are
10 required to pass an evidence-based assessment of teacher
11 effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education, in
12 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
13 Board. All recognized institutions offering approved teacher
14 preparation programs must begin phasing in the approved teacher
15 performance assessment no later than July 1, 2013.

16 (g) Tests of basic skills and content area knowledge and
17 the assessment of professional teaching shall be the tests that
18 from time to time are designated by the State Board of
19 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
20 and Licensure Board, and may be tests prepared by an
21 educational testing organization or tests designed by the State
22 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator
23 Preparation and Licensure Board. The areas to be covered by a
24 test of basic skills shall include reading, language arts, and
25 mathematics. The test of content area knowledge shall assess
26 content knowledge in a specific subject field. The tests must

1 be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no person
2 taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis of race,
3 color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to the
4 person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The score
5 required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State Board of
6 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
7 and Licensure Board. The tests shall be administered not fewer
8 than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be designated
9 by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
10 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

11 The State Board shall implement a test or tests to assess
12 the speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills of
13 applicants for an endorsement or a license issued under
14 subdivision (G) of paragraph (2) of Section 21B-20 of this Code
15 in the English language and in the language of the transitional
16 bilingual education program requested by the applicant.

17 (h) Except as provided in Section 34-6 of this Code, the
18 provisions of this Section shall apply equally in any school
19 district subject to Article 34 of this Code.

20 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the
21 testing requirements under this Section shall include
22 provisions governing test selection, test validation and
23 determination of a passing score, administration of the tests,
24 frequency of administration, applicant fees, frequency of
25 applicants taking the tests, the years for which a score is
26 valid, and appropriate special accommodations. The State Board

1 of Education shall develop such rules as may be needed to
2 ensure uniformity from year to year in the level of difficulty
3 for each form of an assessment.

4 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11.)".