

# **One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB1218**

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**Chairperson: Senator Lynne Walz**

**Committee: Education**

**Date of Hearing: January 31, 2022**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 1218 is written to provide several solutions to the educator workforce shortage and is the result of both the 2021 Occupational Licensing Report issued by the Education Committee, as well as work during the interim on the topic. It begins with legislative findings and intent including language aimed at ensuring that educators from other states have a path to joining the profession in Nebraska. This language also builds upon the intent of the Legislature in 2003 that proficiency in basic skills competency should be a teacher certification requirement, as opposed to a requirement for entrance into a teacher education program.

LB1218 modifies the definition of basic skills competency to allow this certification requirement be achievable from the successful completion of a college admission examination, college course work or successful employment experiences.

It harmonizes the definition of special education with federal statute to accurately refer to an individualized education program (versus plan).

LB1218 changes the fee structure for teacher certificates from being explicitly set in statute to being set by the Commissioner with a not to exceed amount. These amounts were increased by an inflationary factor based on the last time they were increased. This statutory change allows the Commissioner to increase, decrease or waive the fees as deemed appropriate.

Finally, LB1218 offers an additional \$1000 of student loan forgiveness to participants in the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program after the successful completion of their student teaching.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Lynne Walz, Chairperson  
Education Committee**