

AMENDMENTS TO LB762

Introduced by Education.

1 1. Strike the original section and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. (1) For purposes of this section:

4 (a) Board means the State Board of Education;

5 (b) Department means the State Department of Education; and

6 (c) Program means the Nebraska Paraprofessional to Teacher Program.

7 (2)(a) The department shall create and administer the Nebraska
8 Paraprofessional to Teacher Program. The purpose of the program is to
9 help recruit and increase the number of teachers throughout the state by
10 utilizing individuals employed as a paraprofessional or paraeducator at a
11 school in this state through an alternative paraprofessional
12 certification process.

13 (b) The department may work with standard institutions of higher
14 education as defined in section 79-807, the Department of Labor, and
15 other entities the State Department of Education deems necessary to
16 develop and implement the program.

17 (3) The program shall provide services and supports to assist
18 paraprofessionals and paraeducators in this state in obtaining a
19 certificate to teach through training opportunities and grants to
20 paraprofessionals or paraeducators for educational expenses required to
21 obtain a certificate to teach.

22 (4) Subject to available funds, beginning in fiscal year 2023-24, a
23 paraprofessional or paraeducator in this state may apply to the
24 department on a form and in a manner prescribed by the department for a
25 grant to fund educational expenses related to training or education
26 required to obtain a certificate to teach in this state. Such educational
27 expenses shall include tuition, books, and other required materials for

1 class or training. A grant shall not exceed three thousand dollars. The
2 department shall give priority to applications in order of filing.

3 (5) The Paraprofessional to Teacher Program Fund is created. The
4 fund shall be administered by the department to carry out the program.
5 The fund shall consist of money transferred by the Legislature and any
6 gifts, grants, bequests, donations, or other contributions from public or
7 private sources. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be
8 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
9 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

10 (6) It is the intent of the Legislature to transfer one million
11 dollars for fiscal year 2023-24 and each fiscal year thereafter from the
12 Education Future Fund to the Paraprofessional to Teacher Program Fund for
13 the purposes of carrying out the program.

14 (7) The board may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
15 carry out the program.

16 Sec. 2. Section 79-8,145, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
17 2022, is amended to read:

18 79-8,145 (1) In addition to certificates issued pursuant to sections
19 79-806 to 79-815:

20 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall, subject to the provisions
21 of subsection (3) of this section, grant a temporary certificate to teach
22 on a full-time basis to any applicant who:

23 (i) Has completed a teacher education program at a standard
24 institution of higher education as defined in section 79-807; and

25 (ii) Currently possesses a certificate to teach in good standing
26 from another state;~~and~~

27 (b) The commissioner may, subject to the provisions of subsection
28 (3) of this section, grant a temporary certificate to teach on a full-
29 time basis to any applicant who:

30 (i) Has earned and been awarded a bachelor's degree, graduate
31 degree, or professional degree from a college or university accredited by

1 an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of
2 Education; and

3 (ii) Has satisfactorily demonstrated basic skills competency and
4 passed any appropriate subject area examination as designated by the
5 State Board of Education; and -

6 (c) Beginning in fiscal year 2024-25, the commissioner shall,
7 subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, grant a
8 temporary certificate to teach on a full-time basis to any applicant who:

9 (i) Has completed two years at a college or a university accredited
10 by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department
11 of Education with at least forty-eight or more semester credit hours or
12 obtained an associate's degree from such a college or university;

13 (ii) Is employed as a paraprofessional or paraeducator at an
14 elementary school, middle school, or high school in Nebraska; and

15 (iii) Has passed any appropriate subject area examination as
16 designed by the State Board of Education.

17 (2) Any temporary certificate to teach issued pursuant to this
18 section shall be valid for a period not to exceed two years, during which
19 the holder of such temporary certificate must obtain a certificate to
20 teach pursuant to sections 79-806 to 79-815 by completing the
21 requirements contained in such sections.

22 (3) Issuance of a temporary certificate to teach pursuant to this
23 section shall be subject to a criminal history record information check
24 pursuant to section 79-814.01 and payment of any required fees.

25 Sec. 3. Original section 79-8,145, Revised Statutes Cumulative
26 Supplement, 2022, is repealed.

27 Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
28 passed and approved according to law.