

HB632/SB352

Changes to Provisions Relating to Licensure Reciprocity



Bill Patron: Delegate Sam Rasoul/ Senator Mark J. Peake

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

Establishes universal licensure by reciprocity for teachers holding valid out-of-state licenses with full credentials and at least three years of teaching experience in non-virtual classroom settings. The bill also allows division superintendents to issue provisional licenses for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers. The VDOE will compile and publicly post on its website data on teacher licensure standards from each state to facilitate licensure determinations and increase transparency.

This legislation requires Board regulatory action, which is expected to occur at the July Virginia Board of Education meeting for implementation in August.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT SCHOOL DIVISIONS?

Under the conditions of this bill, if the applicant has an active license from any state with at least three years of teaching experience, they qualify for a license in Virginia. Additionally, this bill allows division superintendents to issue provisional licenses for CTE teachers, providing greater flexibility in filling key critical shortage areas in CTE.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- The VDOE Office of Licensure provides evaluative support for divisions concerning provisional licensure requirements that lead to full renewable license when issuing provisional licenses to CTE teachers.
 - Divisions would submit a Licensure Request Form (LRF) to the Licensure Office with the “change license type” box selected. A licensure specialist will evaluate the application and provide feedback on the areas still needed for full licensure. There is no charge for this service.
- For direct Licensure support on converting a provisional CTE license to a full license, contact licensure@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at 804-786-2302.
- The [VDOE resources for licensure pathways](#) can assist applicants with detailed information about the variety of pathways to licensure in Virginia.

WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE RELEASED?

- VDOE has released an [Educator Licensure Reciprocity State Comparison website](#) detailing licensure requirements across the United States.

SCHOOL DIVISION NEXT STEPS:

Licensure Reciprocity

1. To maximize the flexibility in the new law, all school divisions should communicate the opportunity to recruit teachers from other states to building level principals.

2. All school divisions, with the support of VDOE, should develop recruiting strategies that focus on the simplicity of attaining a license in Virginia for veteran out-of-state teachers and attend out-of-state job fairs.
3. School divisions utilizing universal licensure by reciprocity must support out-of-state license applicants being hired to complete the required Virginia licensure application.
4. School divisions that utilize the universal licensure by reciprocity will need to check that the applicant has a current and valid out-of-state license, and the school division will need to verify that the license has been in effect for at least the prior three years without deficiencies.
5. When applying for the license, the school division may note in the comments section that they are requesting the license through universal reciprocity on the Licensure Request Form (LRF) that they submit to the Virginia Department of Education's Licensure Office.
6. Applicants not connected to a division should note in Part V: Out-of-State Educational License on their application that they are requesting universal reciprocity. The Office of Licensure will process the license request accordingly.

VDOE Reciprocity Website

1. Divisions can verify the license type of an out-of-state license by accessing the VDOE's website on state licenses.
2. Applicants interested in getting a license in Virginia can compare the license type in their current state with the requirements in Virginia on the VDOE website on state licenses.
3. To clarify questions related to universal license by reciprocity, please reach out to the VDOE's Office of Licensure.

CTE Provisional Licensure

1. School Divisions may identify candidates eligible for a CTE provisional license.
2. If a school division chooses to use this licensure they should:
 - a. Verify the applicants' official transcripts
 - b. Complete background checks on the applicant
 - c. Receive NASDTEC clearinghouse verification
3. Following the expected July Board regulatory action, divisions must complete the Licensure Request Form on behalf of the applicant and indicate on the form that they want the applicant to receive a provisional license with a CTE endorsement utilizing the flexibility provided by [§ 22.1-298.1.A](#).
4. All forms must be sent by mail to:

Director of Licensure and School Leadership
Virginia Department of Education
PO Box 2120
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120
5. The VDOE licensure team will notify the division superintendent and division human resources officer once the license is issued.
6. Divisions must track each locally awarded provisional CTE license in its progression towards a full renewal license within the three-year time frame.
7. Divisions that have issued provisional CTE license can request an evaluation of the license from the Office of Licensure to determine eligibility for a full renewable license.
8. Divisions must submit documentation prior to the end of the three-year period for a full renewable license for the applicant to ensure that the person can continue teaching in the division.



WHO IS THE VDOE CONTACT:

Mr. Robert Gilstrap, Assistant Superintendent for Educator Preparation

rob.gilstrap@doe.virginia.gov

804-750-8190