

Bill Patron: Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr.

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

Requires the Virginia Board of Education to include provisions in teacher licensure regulations enabling school boards, with superintendent or board recommendation, to issue one-year, nonrenewable local eligibility licenses valid only within the issuing division. Eligible individuals must hold a baccalaureate degree, possess relevant experience or training, and not seek special education or higher licensure. The bill also establishes specific requirements, criteria, and conditions relating to a local eligibility license.

The current bill language has conflicting nonrenewable and renewable language. VDOE has requested additional clarification, but the Department will be using the more restrictive “nonrenewable” format until the conflict in the statute is resolved.

This legislation requires Board action, which is expected to occur at the July Virginia Board of Education meeting.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT SCHOOL DIVISIONS?

This legislation provides divisions the option to employ licensure applicants that have received a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and demonstrates experience or training in a subject or content area as the local school board and division superintendent may deem appropriate for the applicable teaching position or endorsement area. This license option allows more time for applicants to complete provisional licensure requirements. Divisions will support local eligibility teachers through the licensure process while they are teaching.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- [Licensure Regulations](#) - For specific requirements for a provisional or full license.
- [VDOE website resources for licensure pathways](#)
- For direct Licensure support on converting a local eligibility license to a provisional or full license: licensure@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at 804-786-2302.

WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE RELEASED?

- Following the July Board meeting, the Office of Licensure will provide communication to the field regarding the July Board action and the following resources that divisions must submit:
 - **Local Eligibility Attestations:** form submitted by division superintendents to request a one-year local eligibility license.
 - **Local Eligibility Application Form:** special abbreviated one-year licensure application submitted to VDOE.
- VDOE will be releasing a series of training videos for division human resources personnel and superintendents.

SCHOOL DIVISION NEXT STEPS:

1. School divisions must calculate the maximum number of Local Eligibility Licenses that they are permitted to issue based upon 5% of the teachers employed by that school board during the preceding school year.
2. School divisions must identify candidates that are eligible and interested in a one-year local eligibility license.
3. School divisions must:
 - Verify the applicants' official transcripts;
 - Complete background checks on the applicant; and
 - Receive NASDTEC clearinghouse verification.
4. Following the expected July Board regulatory action, the division superintendent must complete the Local Eligibility Attestation form signed by the Division School Board Chair.
5. Following the expected July Board regulatory action, the division superintendent must complete the Local Eligibility Application form on behalf of the applicant.
6. All forms must be sent by mail to:

Dr. Bryan Jackson, Director of Licensure and School Leadership
Department of Teacher Education and Licensure
Virginia Department of Education
PO Box 2120
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120.
7. The licensure team will notify the division superintendent and division human resources officer once the license is issued.
8. Divisions must track each locally awarded license in its progression towards a provisional license within the one-year time frame.
9. Divisions must submit documentation to VDOE prior to the end of the one-year period for a provisional 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

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