

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0824.02 Lindy Schaible x4215

SENATE BILL 26-126

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING TEACHER LICENSURE FOR OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Current law provides that the department of education (department) may issue a professional teacher license to a teacher with at least 3 years of successful experience in teaching within the previous 7 years in another state or country for which the department has granted reciprocity. The bill eliminates the requirement that an applicant have the successful experience in teaching within the previous 7 years. The bill retains the requirement of at least 3 years of successful experience in teaching.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 31, 2026

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 17, 2026

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 16, 2026

The bill requires that the state board of education enter into interstate reciprocity agreements with states that participate in the "Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact" (Compact) and that, pursuant to the agreements, the department issue an initial teacher license within 30 days of receiving a complete teacher license application from a person licensed by a state that participates in the Compact when the applicant passes a criminal history record check and meets specified requirements, including holding a current teacher license issued by another state that required completion of a bachelor's degree or higher and a state-approved teacher preparation program or alternative certification program. The bill also requires that the department publish an annual table showing how out-of-state licenses correspond to Colorado endorsement areas. The bill repeals these requirements upon notification that the Compact's rules are in effect.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-201, **amend** (3)(b)(I)(B) and (3)(d); and **add** (6) as follows:

22-60.5-201. Types of teacher licenses issued - term - rules - notice to revisor of statutes - repeal.

(3) (b) (I) The department of education may issue a professional teacher license to any applicant from another state if:

(B) The applicant has had at least three years of successful, evaluated experience ~~within the previous seven years~~ as a teacher in an established elementary or secondary school and can provide documentation of such experience on forms provided by the department.

(d) An applicant for an initial teacher license who has three years or more of teaching experience in another state or country for which the department ~~of education~~ has granted reciprocity pursuant to this subsection (3) shall be licensed without having to demonstrate professional competencies pursuant to section 22-60.5-203 if ~~such~~ THE person meets all the other qualifications for an initial teacher license or

1 professional teacher license and if ~~such~~ THE person is qualified to teach
2 in that state or country.

3 (6) (a) PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(c) OF THIS SECTION, THE
4 DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE AN INITIAL TEACHER LICENSE WITHIN THIRTY
5 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A COMPLETE TEACHER LICENSE APPLICATION
6 FROM A PERSON LICENSED BY A STATE THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE
7 "INTERSTATE TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT" ESTABLISHED IN PART 44 OF
8 ARTICLE 60 OF TITLE 24 WHEN THE APPLICANT FOR THE TEACHER LICENSE:

9 (I) HOLDS AN UNENCUMBERED ELIGIBLE LICENSE ISSUED BY AN
10 INTERSTATE TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT STATE THAT IS EQUIVALENT TO
11 AN ELIGIBLE LICENSE IN COLORADO;

12 (II) IS NOT SUBJECT TO CURRENT DISCIPLINARY ACTION,
13 SUSPENSION, INVESTIGATION, OR RESTRICTION; AND

14 (III) HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A COLORADO CRIMINAL
15 HISTORY RECORD CHECK PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-103.

16 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL
17 COURSEWORK, EXAMINATIONS, OR PROGRAM COMPLETIONS BEYOND WHAT
18 IS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (6)(a)(I) TO (6)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION AS
19 A CONDITION OF INITIAL LICENSE ISSUANCE, BUT THE DEPARTMENT MAY
20 REQUIRE ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK, EXAMINATIONS, OR PROGRAM
21 COMPLETIONS AS A CONDITION OF LICENSE RENEWAL.

22 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE WHICH COLORADO
23 ENDORSEMENT AREAS MOST CLOSELY CORRESPOND TO THE APPLICANT'S
24 OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE AND SHALL ISSUE AN INITIAL LICENSE IN THOSE
25 AREAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

26 (d) EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH A TABLE
27 SHOWING HOW LICENSES FROM EACH STATE THAT HAS ENTERED INTO AN

1 INTERSTATE RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT
2 CORRESPOND TO COLORADO ENDORSEMENT AREAS.

3 (e) THIS SUBSECTION (6) WILL BE REPEALED IF THE DEPARTMENT
4 BEGINS ISSUING LICENSES PURSUANT TO THE "INTERSTATE TEACHER
5 MOBILITY COMPACT", ESTABLISHED IN PART 44 OF ARTICLE 60 OF TITLE
6 24. THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL NOTIFY THE REVISOR OF
7 STATUTES IN WRITING WHEN THE CONDITION SPECIFIED IN THIS
8 SUBSECTION (6)(e) HAS OCCURRED BY EMAILING THE NOTICE TO
9 REVISOROFSTATUTES.GA@COLEG.GOV. THE REPEAL TAKES EFFECT UPON
10 THE DATE IDENTIFIED IN THE NOTICE OR UPON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE TO
11 THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IF THE NOTICE DOES NOT SPECIFY A DIFFERENT
12 DATE.

13 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
14 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
15 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
16 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
17 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
18 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
19 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
20 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
21 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
22 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.