



**State of Tennessee**  
**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1072**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2302**

**By Summerville, Gresham, Kelsey, Johnson**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3098

By Hensley, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, relative to teacher licensure.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-5-1\_\_.

(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the department shall issue a license to teach in grades nine through twelve (9-12) to any person who has taught at an eligible postsecondary institution as defined in § 49-4-902 and who meets the qualifications listed in this section. The license shall bear an endorsement to teach only in the subject area in which the person taught at the eligible postsecondary institution.

(b) Any applicant seeking teacher licensure pursuant to this act shall:

(1)(A) Have been a full-time college professor or instructor for at least two (2) of the last five (5) years at an eligible postsecondary institution that is accredited by a regional accrediting association, as defined by § 49-4-902; or

(B) Have been a part-time college professor or instructor, teaching at least one (1) course per semester, for at least three (3) of the last five (5) years at an eligible postsecondary institution that is accredited by a regional accrediting association, as defined by § 49-4-902;

(2) Submit for review by the department or a partnering institution of higher education at least three (3) years of documented teaching evaluations that rate the applicant for licensure as proficient or better in the subject area in which the applicant is seeking licensure. The teaching evaluations required by this subdivision shall have been administered by the institution at which the applicant taught. The department is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to define proficiency in evaluations;

(3) Attend in-service training sessions, both before and during licensure, as required by the State Board of Education in consultation with institutions of higher education;

(4) Participate in a mentoring program to be established by the State Board of Education throughout the first school year during which the applicant is licensed; and

(5) Successfully complete all exams required for licensure for the subject area in which the applicant is seeking licensure.

SECTION 2. The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 2302

PASSED: May 1, 2012

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2012

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR