



Testimony
Senate Bill 1388
Senate Education Committee
March 21, 2021
Education Standards and Practice Board
Dr. Rebecca Pitkin

Good afternoon Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Rebecca Pitkin and I am the Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board. I am here today to ask for clarification on Amendment 5 of SB 1388. The board recognizes that effective teachers make critical contributions to a system that allows students to obtain a high-quality education.

The amendment does not currently list individuals who are preparing for licensure in art, foreign language, physical education, special education, and music. These individuals receive a K-12 license and most likely their requirements would be the same as those listed in the amendment, under secondary education, making the amendment inclusive of all candidates.

Secondly, it is unclear if an individual who receives an *Other State Educator License (OSEL)* which is granted to an individual who holds a valid license in another state, has completed a traditional teacher education program and has met their testing requirements would be required to evidence they have these reading requirements, similar to our current youth mental health competency, or if the current rules remain indicating if they have a valid license in another state, there are no additional requirements.

Next, we ask for clarity regarding “credit hours” and if the intent is semester or quarter hours, as these differ on a transcript. In addition, there are individuals who receive competency-based training from American Board and receive licensure who have not had “credit” hours in reading competencies because licensure is gained through passing a competency test. Additional clarity is requested regarding whether these individuals would be required to enroll in additional coursework (to meet the 9 or 3 credits requirement), pass the Praxis reading specialist test or other. Also, in question is the language in #5, “accredited or approved program”, noting American Board is currently neither.

We appreciate clarification on these elements. This concludes my testimony and I stand for any questions.