

DFL Senate and House Educator Licensure Governance Proposal

October 24, 2016

The Senate/House proposal aligns with OLA recommendations, and provides needed reforms to ensure the teacher licensure process is efficient and transparent:

- Consolidates all teacher-licensure applications into one state entity (Professional Educator Standards Board);
- Provides the necessary structure to provide accurate and thorough information on how to appeal licensure decisions made;
- Provides consistency and transparency to the licensure process;
- Follows the state model of the majority of professional licensing boards (accounting, nursing, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, POST);
- Eliminates staff duplication (executive director);
- Eliminates “top down” structure and provides open discussion on licensure issues;
- Provides clarity on which entity deals with ethics issues;
- Provides a board with a broad spectrum of members to represent the state as a whole on licensing issues;
- Provides for a board that has licensure expertise and public members with “on the ground” knowledge of how current practices are working;
- Provides a consistent, transparent and non-threatening way for educators and the public to voice their positions on licensing issues.
- **NOTE: This proposal does not combine educator licensing with the Board of School Administrators.**

Minnesota Professional Educator Standards Board

- Combined board for all educators
- 13- member board appointed by the Governor with advice and consent from the Senate
 - 7 teachers licensed to teach and currently teaching in a Minnesota school; ***1 of the 7 must be a licensed Early Childhood Education Teacher***
 - ***Encourage appointment of educators from different education shortage areas***
 - 1 higher education representative, who must be a faculty member preparing teachers
 - 1 higher education representative, who must be a faculty member in an educational administration program
 - 1 licensed school administrator currently employed by a Minnesota school or school district
 - 1 licensed community education director
 - 1 public member who must be a parent of a student enrolled in a Minnesota public school
 - 1 public member who must be a current or former public school board member
- Membership terms set by Minnesota Statutes Section 214.09

- Governor shall solicit recommendations from group representing above
- Duties:
 - Review and approve teacher preparation programs
 - Issue, approve or deny educator licensing applications
 - Rulemaking authority related to licensure and preparation program requirements
 - Review professional misconduct and discipline matters *for licensed teachers*
 - Determine deficiencies in a candidate's application and how to rectify the deficiency.
 - **NOTE: *We have members who feel strongly that the Board of Teaching and the Board of School Administrators should not be combined.***
- Hire an Executive Director and the necessary staff members to perform its duties, with appropriate funding from the legislature.
- ***Standards Board has necessary resources to carry out duties as assigned***