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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 322  
133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Jones and D. Manning

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### SUMMARY

- Reduces the Ohio Teacher Residency (OTR) program to two years from four.
- Eliminates measures of progression, including completion of the performance-based assessment prescribed by the State Board of Education during a participant's third year, as a required component of the program.
- Requires the State Board to credit an individual who completed two or more years of teaching in another state in the Teach for America program as having completed the OTR program.
- Eliminates a summative performance-based assessment as a condition that an educator preparation program must meet to be qualified to enroll the holder of a two-year initial career-technical workforce development educator license.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Ohio Teacher Residency program

Under current law, the Ohio Teacher Residency (OTR) program is a four-year, entry-level support program that must be completed by holders of either resident educator or alternative resident educator licenses to qualify for a professional educator license.<sup>1</sup> The bill makes changes to the program.

#### Program components

The OTR program currently comprises three components: (1) mentoring by more experienced teachers for the first two years of the program, (2) counseling to ensure that

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3319.223(D).

program participants receive needed professional development, and (3) measures of appropriate progression through the program, which must include the successful completion of the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA) prescribed by the State Board in the third year of the program.<sup>2</sup>

The bill reduces the OTR program to two years from four.<sup>3</sup> It also eliminates measures of progression, including completion of the RESA during a participant's third year, as a required component of the OTR program.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, it eliminates a school district board's option to forgo performance evaluations for teachers participating in the OTR program for the year during which those teachers take, for the first time, at least half of the RESA since it is no longer required.<sup>5</sup>

The bill also exempts individuals participating in the OTR program who are teaching career-technical courses under an alternative resident educator license from completing the RESA.<sup>6</sup>

### **Teach for America**

Under current law, the State Board must issue a resident educator license to any applicant who has completed two or more years of teaching in another state as a participant in the Teach for America program. As holders of a resident educator license, these individuals still must participate in the OTR program, but the State Board is required to credit them with completing two years of the OTR program. Under the bill, the State Board now must credit these individuals as having completed the OTR program due to the shortening of the program.<sup>7</sup>

### **Career-technical workforce development educator license**

Effective July 1, 2019, continuing law prescribes two new forms of career-technical workforce development educator licenses for new licensees and for existing licensees who wish to apply for the licenses. The new licenses are a two-year initial license and a five-year advanced license. One of the requirements for maintaining the two-year initial license is for the holder to participate in a teacher preparation program offered by a college or university that is aligned with career-technical education and workforce development competencies developed by the Department of Education and that meets other conditions. One of those other

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3319.223(A). See also <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Resident-Educator-Program/The-Assessment-Year-s>.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3319.22(A)(1)(a).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3319.223(A) and 3319.26(F)(4).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 3319.111(C)(2)(e).

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 3319.223(B)(1)(a).

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 3319.227(C).

conditions is that the program uses a summative performance-based assessment also aligned to those competencies. The bill eliminates that condition.<sup>8</sup>

## **Background**

### **Resident educator license**

Educator licensing in Ohio is a tiered structure, starting with the resident educator license for entry-level teachers. Applicants for this license must be graduates of an approved teacher preparation program, have passed state licensure examinations, be of good moral character, and, for teachers wishing to teach grades pre-K to 3 or 4 to 8, must have completed 12 semester hours of coursework in the teaching of reading. Applicants desiring to teach grades 7 to 12 must have completed at least three semester hours of coursework in the teaching of reading in the instructional content area.<sup>9</sup> An applicant for the standard resident educator license must complete the OTR program to be eligible for the professional educator license.<sup>10</sup> The standard resident educator license is a four-year license that may be renewed or extended for reasons determined by the State Board.

### **Teach for America**

An individual assigned to teach in this state as a participant in the Teach for America program may qualify for a resident educator license, provided the individual also satisfies the following conditions for the duration of the program:

1. Holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education;
2. Maintained a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.5 out of 4.0, or its equivalent;
3. Has passed an examination prescribed by the State Board in the subject area to be taught;
4. Has successfully completed the summer training institute operated by Teach for America;
5. Remains an active member of the Teach for America two-year support program.

Additionally, the State Board must issue a resident educator license to any applicant who has completed two years or more of the Teach for America program in another state and

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<sup>8</sup> R.C. 3319.229. For a detailed description of the provisions of the new career-technical workforce development educator licenses, see the LSC final analysis for H.B. 98 of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly available at <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=9258&format=pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> R.C. 3319.22 and 3319.24, latter not in the bill; Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) 3301-24-18.

<sup>10</sup> R.C. 3319.223.

meets the above criteria. Current law requires the State Board to credit such an applicant as having completed two years of the OTR program.<sup>11</sup>

### **Alternative resident educator license**

The alternative resident educator license is a four-year license intended to give individuals who have not graduated from a traditional teacher preparation program the opportunity to work toward standard licensure while employed full-time as a teacher. It is valid for teaching in grades K to 12 and may be renewable or extended for reasons determined by the State Board.

Current law requires applicants for an alternative resident educator license to (1) hold at least an undergraduate degree, (2) have either a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.5 out of 4.0 or a cumulative graduate school grade point average of 3.0 out of 4.0, (3) successfully complete either the pedagogical training institute program jointly developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chancellor of Higher Education or a preservice training teacher preparation program approved by the Chancellor, and (4) pass a test in the subject area for which the application is being made.<sup>12</sup>

To continue holding an alternative resident educator license, individuals must participate in the OTR program, show satisfactory progress in completing additional college coursework in the principles and practices of teaching, and take an assessment of professional knowledge in the second year of teaching under the license.<sup>13</sup>

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## **COMMENT**

The bill reduces the OTR program to two years from four. Continuing law, however, maintains that resident educator and alternative resident educator licenses are valid for four years and may be extended by the State Board as necessary to enable the license holder to complete the OTR.<sup>14</sup> The bill makes no other changes in the qualifications necessary to obtain a resident educator or alternative resident educator license or the duration of those licenses. Nor does it change the law regarding converting those licenses to the five-year professional educator license, the next tier in the teacher licensure structure. It may not be clear how the Department of Education will administer the conversion to the professional educator license.

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<sup>11</sup> R.C. 3319.227.

<sup>12</sup> R.C. 3319.26.

<sup>13</sup> R.C. 3319.26(D) and O.A.C. 3301-24-24.

<sup>14</sup> R.C. 3319.22(A)(1)(a) and 3319.26(D).

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	08-28-19

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