

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

SB 204 # 4

DIGEST

Degree programs. Provides that a state educational institution that has been denied approval to continue a degree program may: (1) permit students to enroll in the degree program until June 1 of the year following the denial; and (2) provide students enrolled in the degree program with the opportunity to finish their degree prior to the degree program's closure. Requires the commission for higher education to submit an annual report concerning degree program closures to the general assembly. Allows the department of education to serve as an accreditor.

1 Page 1, delete lines 1 through 15, begin a new paragraph and insert:
2 "SECTION 1. IC 20-28-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.190-2025,
3 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
4 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this section, "teacher
5 candidate" means an individual recommended for an initial teaching
6 license from a teacher preparation program located in Indiana.
7 (b) As used in this section, "teacher preparation program" includes,
8 but is not limited to, the following:
9 (1) A teacher education school or department.
10 (2) A transition to teaching program under IC 20-28-4.
11 (3) Any other entity approved by the department to offer a course
12 of study leading to an initial teaching license.
13 (c) The department shall:
14 (1) arrange a statewide system of professional instruction for
15 teacher education;
16 (2) accredit and review teacher preparation programs that comply
17 with the rules of the department;
18 (3) approve content area licensure programs for particular kinds
19 of teachers in accredited teacher preparation programs; and
20 (4) specify the types of licenses for individuals who complete
21 programs of approved courses.
22 (d) The department shall work with teacher preparation programs to
23 develop a system of teacher education that ensures individuals who

1 complete teacher preparation programs are able to meet the highest
2 professional standards.

3 (e) Before July 1, 2015, the department shall establish standards for
4 the continuous improvement of program processes and the performance
5 of individuals who complete teacher preparation programs. The state
6 board shall adopt rules containing the standards not later than two
7 hundred seventy (270) days after the department finishes the standards.

8 (f) The standards established under subsection (e) must include
9 benchmarks for performance, including test score data for each teacher
10 preparation entity on content area licensure tests and test score data for
11 each teacher preparation entity on pedagogy licensure tests.

12 (g) Each teacher preparation program shall annually report the
13 program's performance on the standards and benchmarks established
14 under this section to the department. The department shall make the
15 information reported under this subsection available to the public on
16 the department's website. Each teacher preparation program shall make
17 the information reported under this subsection available to the public
18 on the teacher preparation program's website. In addition to reporting
19 performance, each teacher preparation program must report to the
20 department the following:

21 (1) The attrition, retention, and completion rates of teacher
22 candidates for the previous three (3) calendar years. The teacher
23 preparation program must also provide underlying data, as
24 determined by the department, used as part of calculating the
25 teacher preparation program's retention rates.

26 (2) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who
27 complete the teacher preparation program during the year,
28 disaggregated by ranges of cumulative grade point averages.

29 (3) The number of teacher candidates in each content area who,
30 during the year:

31 (A) do not pass a content area licensure examination; and
32 (B) do not retake the content area licensure examination.

33 (h) In making information available to the public on the
34 department's website, the department shall include in the report under
35 subsection (g), in addition to the matrix ratings described in subsection
36 (i), the following information:

37 (1) Average scaled or standard scores of teacher candidates who
38 complete teacher preparation programs on basic skills, content
39 area, and pedagogy licensure examinations.

40 (2) The average number of times teacher candidates who

1 complete a teacher preparation program take each licensing test
2 before receiving a passing score and the percentage of teacher
3 candidates who receive a passing score on each licensing test on
4 the teacher candidates' first attempts.

5 (i) Not later than July 30, 2016, the department and the commission
6 for higher education, in conjunction with the state board, the
7 Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc., and teacher preparation
8 programs, shall establish a matrix rating system for teacher preparation
9 programs based on the performance of the programs as demonstrated
10 by the data collected under subsections (g) and (h). The matrix rating
11 system must be based on data collected for teachers who initially
12 receive their teaching license during the previous three (3) years. The
13 department shall make the matrix ratings available to the public on the
14 department's website.

15 (j) Each teacher preparation program shall report to the department,
16 in a manner prescribed by the department, the teacher preparation
17 program's admission practices, in accordance with:

18 (1) the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
19 standards, for teacher preparation programs accredited by the
20 Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation;

21 (2) rigorous academic entry requirements for admission into a
22 teacher preparatory program that are equivalent to the minimum
23 academic requirements determined by the Council for the
24 Accreditation of Educator Preparation, for teacher preparation
25 programs that are not accredited by the Council for the
26 Accreditation of Educator Preparation; or

27 (3) the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator
28 Preparation standards, for teacher preparation programs
29 accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator
30 Preparation; or

31 **(4) the department's admission standards for teacher
32 preparation programs accredited by the department.**

33 The department shall include information reported to the department
34 on the department's website.

35 (k) Not later than July 30, 2016, the department and the commission
36 for higher education, in conjunction with the state board, the
37 Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc., and teacher preparation
38 programs, shall establish a minimum rating under the matrix rating
39 system established under subsection (i) that teacher preparation
40 programs must achieve to avoid referral under subsection (l).

7 (1) In the case of a state educational institution, the commission
8 for higher education shall place the teacher preparation program
9 on an improvement plan with clear performance goals and a
10 designated period in which the performance goals must be
11 achieved.

12 (2) In the case of a proprietary postsecondary educational
13 institution, the commission for higher education shall recommend
14 to the teacher preparation program an improvement plan with
15 clear performance goals and a designated period in which the
16 performance goals should be achieved.

17 (3) In the case of a nonprofit college or university, the
18 Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc., shall coordinate a peer
19 review process to make recommendations to the peer institution
20 in achieving the department's performance metrics.

21 (m) The department shall approve at least two (2) accreditors that:
22 (1) accredit teacher preparation programs; and
23 (2) are recognized by the Council for Higher Education
24 Accreditation;

25 to accredit teacher preparation programs for use in Indiana. **The**
26 **department may also serve as an accreditor in addition to the two**
27 **(2) accreditors approved under this subsection.**

35 Delete pages 2 through 3.

36 Page 4, delete lines 1 through 41.

37 Page 11, delete lines 5 through 34, begin a new paragraph and
38 insert:

39 "SECTION 8. IC 21-18-9-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.213-2025,
40 SECTION 248, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS

1 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027]: Sec. 10.7. (a) For each state educational
2 institution degree program, if the:

- 3 (1) average number of students who graduate over the
4 immediately preceding three (3) years is fewer than:
5 (A) ten (10) students for a particular associate degree program;
6 (B) fifteen (15) students for a particular bachelor's degree
7 program;
8 (C) seven (7) students for a particular master's degree
9 program;
10 (D) three (3) students for a particular education specialist
11 program; or
12 (E) three (3) students for a particular doctorate degree
13 program; and

14 (2) state educational institution would like to continue a degree
15 program described in subdivision (1);

16 the state educational institution must request approval from the
17 commission to continue the degree program.

18 (b) **Subject to subsection (c)**, if the commission does not grant
19 approval under subsection (a), the state educational institution must
20 eliminate:

- 21 (1) the degree program; and
22 (2) any costs associated with the degree program.

23 **(c) A state educational institution that has been denied approval
24 under subsection (a) may:**

- 25 (1) permit students to enroll in the degree program until June
26 1 of the year following the commission's denial; and
27 (2) provide students enrolled in the degree program with the
28 opportunity to finish their degree prior to the degree
29 program's closure under subsection (b).

30 (d) The commission shall prepare an annual report concerning
31 the number of degree programs that were denied approval under
32 subsection (a). The report described in this subsection must be
33 submitted, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, to the general
34 assembly not later than December 1 of each year.".

35 Page 15, after line 12, begin a new paragraph and insert:

36 "**SECTION 17. An emergency is declared for this act.**".

37 Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to SB 204 as introduced.)