

# PROPOSED AMENDMENT

## SB 204 # 1

### 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  
24           complete teacher preparation programs are able to meet the highest

1 professional standards.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 (2) The average number of times teacher candidates who  
40 complete a teacher preparation program take each licensing test

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 (l) Not later than July 1 of each year, the department shall submit a

1 list of teacher preparation programs that do not meet the minimum  
2 rating established under subsection (k) or the requirements of section  
3 3.1 or 3.2 of this chapter to the commission for higher education and  
4 the Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. for one (1) of the following  
5 actions:

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

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

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

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

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

27 (n) Not later than December 31, 2024, the department and the  
28 commission for higher education, in conjunction with the state board,  
29 shall partner with teacher preparation programs to receive an outside  
30 evaluation by a nationally recognized nonprofit, nonpartisan  
31 organization that leverages evidence based approaches on the science  
32 of reading to evaluate teacher preparation reading instruction  
33 programs.".

34 Delete pages 2 through 3.

35 Page 4, delete lines 1 through 41.

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

38 "SECTION 8. IC 21-18-9-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.213-2025,  
39 SECTION 248, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
40 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.7. (a) For each state educational

1 institution degree program, if: ~~the~~:

2 (1) ~~the~~:

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

15 (B) **degree program meets the definition of a low earning**  
16 **outcome program under the Higher Education Act (20**  
17 **U.S.C. 1087d); and**

18 (2) **the** state educational institution would like to continue a  
19 degree program described in subdivision (1);  
20 the state educational institution must request approval from the  
21 commission to continue the degree program.

22 (b) **Subject to subsection (c)**, if the commission does not grant  
23 approval under subsection (a), the state educational institution must  
24 eliminate:  
25 (1) the degree program; and  
26 (2) any costs associated with the degree program.

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

29 (1) **permit students to enroll in the degree program until June**  
30 **1 of the year following the commission's denial; and**  
31 (2) **provide students enrolled in the degree program with the**  
32 **opportunity to finish their degree prior to the degree**  
33 **program's closure under subsection (b).**

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

39 Page 15, after line 12, begin a new paragraph and insert:  
40 "SECTION 17. **An emergency is declared for this act.**"

- 1      Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.  
(Reference is to SB 204 as introduced.)