

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 28

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

TEACHERS/CERTIFICATION: Provides relative to the appeals process for teacher certification applicants

1
AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:8.8(E), relative to teacher certification; to provide relative to
3 the appeals process for applicants who have been denied certification; to authorize
4 the state superintendent to override a decision of the Teacher Certification Appeals
5 Council under certain circumstances; to provide for applicability; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:8.8(E) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

* * *

12 E.(1) The council shall evaluate the appeals of persons seeking Louisiana
13 certification, including a review of the documents and transcripts of appellants, and
14 shall submit a written report of its findings to the board. A decision of the council
15 shall be a final decision except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

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CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underlined are additions.

1 Section 2. The authority of the state superintendent of education to override the
2 Teacher Certification Appeals Council's denial of appeals as provided in R.S. 17:8.8(E) as
3 amended and reenacted by Section 1 of this Act shall have both prospective application and
4 retroactive application to denials issued by the council between January 1, 2025, and the
5 effective date of this Act.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 28 Original

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Owen

Abstract: Authorizes the state superintendent of education to override the Teacher Certification Appeals Council's denial of appeals under certain circumstances.

Present law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to establish an appeals process through which applicants who have been denied certification may appeal the denial to the Teacher Certification Appeals Council. Requires the council to evaluate the appeals and submit a written report of findings to BESE. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that a decision of the council shall be a final decision. Proposed law provides an exception to present law by providing that the state superintendent of education may override the council's denial of an appellant's appeal if the denial was based on circumstances beyond the appellant's control as determined by the superintendent; provides, however, that the superintendent shall not override a denial by the council if he determines that the certification of the appellant would conflict with state or federal law.

Proposed law provides that the authority of the state superintendent of education to override the council's denial of appeals as provided in proposed law shall have both prospective application and retroactive application to denials issued by the council between Jan. 1, 2025, and the effective date of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 17:8.8(E))