WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Rep. LaKeshia Myers Issues a Statement Regarding the Passage of AB 195

MADISON – The Wisconsin Assembly passed AB 195 which modifies the license to teach based on reciprocity. This legislation requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to issue a license to teach based on reciprocity to an individual who holds a license to teach in good standing from another state. If the educator taught under a license issued by another state for at least two semesters and their former school district confirms that the applicant's teaching experience was successful.

This bill also changes a license to teach based on reciprocity from an initial license to a provisional license. This requires the Department of Public Instruction to issue a lifetime license to an individual who obtains a provisional license to teach based on reciprocity if the individual successfully completes six semesters (three school years) of teaching experience, as defined by DPI.

"This is a win for teachers. As Wisconsin school districts look to attract teachers from outside our state to fill the many vacancies we have, passing AB195 was paramount. Lifetime licensure is an incentive for professional educators who come to Wisconsin with a proven track record of successful teaching. I am elated that this was supported by members of both parties, as I think it indicates that we all recognize education as the cornerstone of our society. As an educator, I am hopeful that this change will increase the number of professional educators that will join our ranks here in Wisconsin." Rep. Myers stated.

As of the 2018-2019 school year, the Department of Public Instruction has issued 409 teacher licenses based on reciprocity. This number is derived from the 2017-2019 state budget, which removed the requirement for a teacher to receive an offer of employment to teach in a school located in the state in order to qualify for a teacher license based on licensure in another state.

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