

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1347
(Representatives Zubke, Mitskog, Owens, Schreiber-Beck)
(Senators Luick, Schaible)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 15.1-15-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to probationary teacher contracts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-15-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-15-02. First-year Probationary teachers - Review of evaluations - Renewal and nonrenewal of contracts.

1. If the board of a school district contemplates not renewing the contract of an individual employed as a first-year probationary teacher, the board shall review the individual's evaluations required by section 15.1-15-01 and meet with the individual in an executive session to discuss the reasons for the contemplated nonrenewal.
2. The individual employed as a first-year probationary teacher may be accompanied by two representatives selected by the individual for the purpose of speaking on behalf of the individual and by the individual's spouse or one other family member.
3. No claim for relief for libel or slander may be brought regarding any communication made at an executive session of a school board held pursuant to this section.
4. If the board of a school district elects not to renew the contract of an individual employed as a first-year probationary teacher, the board shall provide written notification of the decision, together with a detailed description of the board's reasons, to the individual no earlier than April fifteenth nor later than May first.
5. Failure by the board of a school district to provide the notification required by subsection 4 constitutes an offer to renew the individual's contract on the same terms and conditions as the individual's contract for the current year.
6. The board of a school district may waive probationary status for a teacher with at least two years of teaching experience in the state.
7. The board of a school district shall offer, as needed, based on the teacher's evaluation, a teacher mentoring program for probationary teachers.
8. For purposes of this section, a "first-year probationary teacher" means an individual teaching for ~~the first school year since obtaining a license to teach~~ less than two years.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1347.

House Vote: Yeas 80 Nays 10 Absent 4

Senate Vote: Yeas 42 Nays 5 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2019,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State