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S.217 – Revised Text as of 2-23-16

* * * Agency of Education * * *

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 1691a is amended to read:

§ 1691a. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(10)~~(A)~~ “Teacher” means an individual licensed under this chapter **or an individual licensed under Title 26 who holds a corresponding endorsement under this chapter,** the majority of whose employed time in a public school district or supervisory union is assigned to furnish to students direct instructional or other educational services, as defined by rule of the Standards Board, or who is otherwise subject to licensing as determined by the Standards Board.

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1694 is amended to read:

§ 1694. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

In addition to any other powers and duties prescribed by law or incidental or necessary to the exercise of such lawful powers and duties, the Standards Board shall:

(1) Adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 with respect to the licensing of teachers and administrators ~~and of speech language pathologists and audiologists as provided in 26 V.S.A. chapter 87.~~

* * *

1 **§ 1694a. ENDORSEMENT OF PROFESSIONALS LICENSED**

2 **PURSUANT TO TITLE 26**

3 **(a) Where the Standards Board finds that a class of professionals**
4 **licensed pursuant to Title 26 performs services within schools that**
5 **constitute direct instructional or other educational services, the Standards**
6 **Board shall develop an appropriate endorsement in joint consultation**
7 **with the Director of Professional Regulation. Such endorsement shall be**
8 **adopted pursuant to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.**

9 **(b) An endorsement issued to an individual licensed pursuant to Title**
10 **26 shall be administered by the Office of Professional Regulation and**
11 **indicated by a special designation upon the professional license signifying**
12 **that the licensee not only meets the requirements for Title 26 licensure,**
13 **but also possesses such additional qualifications, if any, required to obtain**
14 **the endorsement.**

15 **(c) A licensee shall not be required to pay any fee to obtain an**
16 **endorsed license under this section, except the ordinary fee incident to**
17 **obtaining and renewing the underlying professional license. A licensee**
18 **shall not be required to file redundant documentation with different**
19 **subdivisions of State government.**

20 **(d) The Office of Professional Regulation and the Agency of Education**
21 **each shall notify the other immediately upon a change in licensure or**
22 **endorsement status pertaining to a licensee holding an endorsement under**
23 **this chapter, or upon receipt of a disciplinary complaint against such**

1 **licensee. The Office and the Agency shall cooperate in workforce-data or**
2 **discipline reporting.**

3 * * *

4 **Sec 5. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION**

5 **(a) An individual licensed pursuant to Title 26 who holds a corresponding**
6 **Standards Board endorsement on the effective date of this section shall be**
7 **entitled to receive a new, endorsed Title 26 license valid through the**
8 **existing expiration of the Title 26 license.**

9 **(b) The unification of licensure and endorsement pursuant to this Act**
10 **shall not divest the Standards Board, the Agency of Education, or the**
11 **Office of Professional Regulation or its subsidiary boards of investigative**
12 **and disciplinary jurisdiction available under existing law.**