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## SENATE BILL 5264

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session

By Senators Wellman, C. Wilson, and Hasegawa; by request of Professional Educator Standards Board

- 1 AN ACT Relating to minimum employment requirements for paraeducators; amending RCW 28A.413.040; and declaring an emergency.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.413.040 and 2018 c 153 s 1 are each amended to 5 read as follows:
  - (1) (a) A person working as a paraeducator for a school district before or during the 2017-18 school year must meet the requirements of subsection (2) of this section by the date of hire for the 2019-20 school year or any subsequent school year.
- 10 (b) A person who has not previously worked as a paraeducator for 11 a school district must meet the requirements of subsection (2) of 12 this section by the date of hire for the 2018-19 school year or any 13 subsequent school year.
- 14 (2) The minimum employment requirements for paraeducators are as 15 provided in this subsection. A paraeducator must:
- 16 (a) Be at least ((eighteen)) 18 years of age and hold a high school diploma or its equivalent; and
- (b) (i) Have received a passing grade on ((the education testing service paraeducator assessment)) an assessment approved by the board; ((or))
- 21 (ii) Hold an associate of arts degree; ((<del>or</del>))

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(iii) Have earned (( $seventy-two$ )) $72$ quarter credits or (( $forty-two$ )
$\frac{\text{eight}}{\text{old}}$ )) $\frac{48}{\text{old}}$ semester credits at an institution of higher education; or
(iv) Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

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<u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

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