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**SENATE BILL 5264**

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**State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Wellman, C. Wilson, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Lovick, Nguyen, Nobles, and Shewmake; by request of Professional Educator Standards Board

AN ACT Relating to minimum employment requirements for paraeducators; amending RCW 28A.413.040; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

**Sec.**  RCW 28A.413.040 and 2018 c 153 s 1 are each amended to 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.

(b) A person who has not previously worked as a paraeducator for a school district must meet the requirements of subsection (2) of this section by the date of hire for the 2018-19 school year or any subsequent school year.

(2) The minimum employment requirements for paraeducators are as provided in this subsection. A paraeducator must:

(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~~))

(ii) Hold an associate of arts degree; ((~~or~~))

(iii) Have earned ((~~seventy-two~~)) 72 quarter credits or ((~~forty-eight~~)) 48 semester credits at an institution of higher education; or

(iv) Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  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.

**--- END ---**