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**Educator Licensure, Policy & Rule**

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**The Background:**

Educator licensure, a state function, is designed to ensure that educators meet minimum standards of practice. The current educator licensure policy and process is too complex to effectively serve teachers, students or the public. Currently, Tennessee issues more than 20 types of teacher licenses, which is unnecessary and confusing for new teacher candidates.

The proposed item streamlines the current licensure policy while recognizing the role of licensure with respect to other state, district and school level personnel functions. The item reflects changes based on the licensure policy rescinded at the Jan. 31, 2014 meeting of the State Board of Education. The new policy requires that all teachers complete continuing education credits for the purposes of advancing or renewing an educator license. In addition to earning credits based on completion of approved professional development activities, such as attending relevant conferences and completing appropriate coursework, educators may also earn continuing education credits based on meeting or exceeding performance expectations.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.