

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1649

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CUNNINGHAM (86).

Read 1st time March 9, 2004, and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

4642L.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to teacher certification.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows:

168.021. 1. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be granted as follows:

(1) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it,

(a) Upon the basis of college credit;

(b) Upon the basis of examination;

(2) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the state board with advice from the advisory council established by section 168.015 to any individual who presents to the state board a valid doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting association such as North Central Association. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of postgraduate study of the holder, shall be issued only after successful completion of the examination required for graduation pursuant to rules adopted by the state board of education, and shall be restricted to those certificates established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section; [or]

(3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional certificate classification in both the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with the current areas of certification approved by the state board, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law. Matter in boldface type in the above law is proposed language.

17 applicant, and based upon the following criteria:

18 (a) Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation
19 program;

20 (b) Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit assessment for
21 teachers or administrators designated by the state board of education. Applicants who have not
22 successfully achieved a qualifying score on the designated examinations will be issued a
23 two-year nonrenewable provisional certificate; and

24 (c) Upon completion of a background check and possession of a valid teaching certificate
25 in the state from which the applicant's teacher preparation program was completed; or

26 **(4) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on the basis**
27 **of certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence and, at the**
28 **discretion of the state board, certification by any other teacher certification organization**
29 **recognized by the federal government.**

30 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board policies and
31 regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the professional development
32 requirements of this section and shall continue in effect until they expire, are revoked or
33 suspended, as provided by law. When such certificates are required to be renewed, the state
34 board or its designee shall grant to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly
35 equivalent to the one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II,
36 or continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of his or her current certificate, be
37 issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the classification system established
38 pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

39 3. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be based upon
40 minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education. The state board shall provide
41 for the following levels of professional certification: an initial professional certificate and a
42 career continuous professional certificate.

43 (1) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of requirements
44 established by the state board of education and shall be valid based upon verification of actual
45 teaching within a specified time period established by the state board of education. The state
46 board shall require holders of the four-year initial professional certificate to:

47 (a) Participate in a mentoring program approved and provided by the district for a
48 minimum of two years;

49 (b) Complete thirty contact hours of professional development, which may include hours
50 spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum; and

51 (c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program;

52 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon verification

53 of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate and upon
54 verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of
55 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

56 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon
57 verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board
58 guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional development per year which
59 may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of
60 a valid career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour
61 professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make up the
62 missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall first complete the
63 fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may count hours in excess of the current
64 year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to make up the missing hours
65 within two years, the certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the certificate, the
66 possessor shall complete twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may
67 include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months
68 prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate. The requirements of this paragraph shall be
69 monitored and verified by the local school district which employs the holder of the career
70 continuous professional certificate.

71 (c) A holder of a career continuous professional certificate shall be exempt from the
72 professional development contact hour requirements of paragraph (b) of this subdivision if such
73 teacher has a local professional development plan in place within such teacher's school district
74 and meets two of the three following criteria:

- 75 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;
76 b. Possesses a master's degree; or
77 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of education.
78 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who was not retained
79 due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of certification. There shall also be
80 established policies and procedures allowing a teacher who has not been employed in an
81 educational position for three years or more to reactivate his or her last level of certification by
82 completing twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may include hours
83 spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or after
84 reactivating his or her certificate.

85 5. The state board shall, upon an appropriate background check, issue a professional
86 certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an applicant's current areas of
87 certification, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the applicant, to any person
88 who is hired to teach in a public school in this state and who possesses a valid teaching

89 certificate from another state[,] **or certification as contemplated under subdivision (4) of**
90 **subsection 1 of this section;** provided that the certificate holder shall annually complete the state
91 board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall establish policies by which
92 residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed a fee for a certificate license
93 to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover
94 any or all costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach.

95 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to be
96 deposited into the excellence in education revolving fund established pursuant to section
97 160.268, RSMo, for the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However,
98 such fee shall not exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check
99 required as a condition of issuance.

100 7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who entered covered
101 employment with ten or more years of educational experience in another state or states and held
102 a certificate issued by another state and subsequently worked in a school district covered by the
103 public school retirement system of Missouri for ten or more years who later became certificated
104 in Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to his or her original date of employment in a
105 Missouri public school.