

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 145

## 93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CUNNINGHAM (86).

Pre-filed December 29, 2004 and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

0147L.02I

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### AN ACT

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

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*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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows: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 the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill 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 as an approved provider of teacher certification.**

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.