

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1911

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES MUSCHANY (Sponsor), WALLACE,
EMERY, BAKER (123) AND JONES (89) (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time January 30, 2008 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

3218L.04I

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating solely 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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows: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]

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.

14 (3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional certificate classification in both
15 the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with the current areas of certification
16 approved by the state board, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the
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 (ABCTE)**
28 **and verification of ability to work with children as demonstrated by sixty contact hours in**
29 **any one of the following areas as validated by the school principal: sixty contact hours in**
30 **the classroom, of which at least forty-five must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a**
31 **substitute teacher, with at least thirty consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty**
32 **contact hours of teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a**
33 **paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE certificate of license to teach, except that**
34 **such certificate shall not be granted for the areas of special education. Upon the**
35 **completion of the requirements listed in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision,**
36 **an applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional certificate under**
37 **subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section:**

38 (a) **Completion of thirty contact hours of professional development within four**
39 **years, which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum;**

40 (b) **Validated completion of two years of the mentoring program of the American**
41 **Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence or a district mentoring program approved**
42 **by the state board of education;**

43 (c) **Attainment of a successful performance-based teacher evaluation; and**

44 (d) **Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program.**

45 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board policies and
46 regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the professional development
47 requirements of this section and shall continue in effect until they expire, are revoked or
48 suspended, as provided by law. When such certificates are required to be renewed, the state
49 board or its designee shall grant to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly
50 equivalent to the one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II,

51 or continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of his or her current certificate, be
52 issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the classification system established
53 pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

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

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

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

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

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

67 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon verification
68 of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate and upon
69 verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of
70 subdivision (1) of this subsection **or paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of subdivision (4) of**
71 **subsection 1 of this section.**

72 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon
73 verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board
74 guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional development per year which
75 may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of
76 a valid career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour
77 professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make up the
78 missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall first complete the
79 fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may count hours in excess of the current
80 year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to make up the missing hours
81 within two years, the certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the certificate, the
82 possessor shall complete twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may
83 include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months
84 prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate. The requirements of this paragraph shall be
85 monitored and verified by the local school district which employs the holder of the career
86 continuous professional certificate.

87 (c) A holder of a career continuous professional certificate shall be exempt from the
88 professional development contact hour requirements of paragraph (b) of this subdivision if such

89 teacher has a local professional development plan in place within such teacher's school district
90 and meets two of the three following criteria:

- 91 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;
- 92 b. Possesses a master's degree; or
- 93 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of education.

94 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who was not retained
95 due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of certification. There shall also be
96 established policies and procedures allowing a teacher who has not been employed in an
97 educational position for three years or more to reactivate his or her last level of certification by
98 completing twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may include hours
99 spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or after
100 reactivating his or her certificate.

101 5. The state board shall, upon an appropriate background check, issue a professional
102 certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an applicant's current areas of
103 certification, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the applicant, to any person
104 who is hired to teach in a public school in this state and who possesses a valid teaching
105 certificate from another state, provided that the certificate holder shall annually complete the
106 state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall establish policies by which
107 residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed a fee for a certificate license
108 to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover
109 any or all costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach.

110 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to be
111 deposited into the excellence in education revolving fund established pursuant to section
112 160.268, RSMo, for the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However,
113 such fee shall not exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check
114 required as a condition of issuance. **Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be**
115 **responsible for any fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of the**
116 **certificate, but nothing in this section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy that**
117 **permits fee reimbursement.**

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

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