

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1874

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CUNNINGHAM (86).

Read 1st time January 28, 2008 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

3536L.01I

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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows: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

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.

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 prescribed by it, on the basis of a relevant**
27 **bachelor's degree, or higher degree, and a passing score for the designated exit**
28 **examination, for individuals whose academic degree and professional experience are**
29 **suitable to provide a basis for instruction solely in the subject matter of banking or**
30 **financial responsibility, at the discretion of the state board. Such certificate shall be**
31 **limited to the major area of study of the holder and shall be restricted to those certificates**
32 **established under subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section. Holders of certificates**
33 **granted under this subdivision shall be exempt from the teacher tenure act and each school**
34 **district shall have the decision-making authority on whether to hire the holders of such**
35 **certificates.**

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

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

49 (1) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of requirements
50 established by the state board of education and shall be valid based upon verification of actual

51 teaching within a specified time period established by the state board of education. The state
52 board shall require holders of the four-year initial professional certificate to:

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

55 (b) Complete thirty contact hours of professional development, which may include hours
56 spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum; **or for holders of a certificate under**
57 **subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, and amount of professional development in**
58 **proportion to the certificate holder's hours in the classroom, if the certificate holder is**
59 **employed less than full-time; and**

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

61 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon verification
62 of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate and upon
63 verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of
64 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

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

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

84 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;

85 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

86 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of education.

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

94 5. The state board shall, upon an appropriate background check, issue a professional
95 certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an applicant's current areas of
96 certification, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the applicant, to any person
97 who is hired to teach in a public school in this state and who possesses a valid teaching
98 certificate from another state[,] **or certification under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this**
99 **section;** provided that the certificate holder shall annually complete the state board's
100 requirements for such level of certification, and shall establish policies by which residents of
101 states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed a fee for a certificate license to teach in
102 the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover any or all
103 costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach.

104 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to be
105 deposited into the excellence in education revolving fund established pursuant to section
106 160.268, RSMo, for the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However,
107 such fee shall not exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check
108 required as a condition of issuance.

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

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