

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1786

## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE POLLITT.

3745H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to certificates of license to teach.

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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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows: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 (2) of subsection 3 of this section;

(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 applicant, and based upon the following criteria:

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.

- 18 (a) Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation  
19 program;
- 20 (b) a. Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit assessment  
21 for teachers or administrators designated by the state board of education;
- 22 b. (i) Applicants who have not successfully achieved a qualifying score on the  
23 designated examinations will be issued a two-year nonrenewable provisional certificate;
- 24 (ii) During the two-year nonrenewable provisional certification, an individual teacher  
25 may gain full professional certification by:
- 26 i. Achieving a qualifying score on the designated exam; or
- 27 ii. Successfully achieving an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher  
28 evaluation system from seven walk-through evaluations, two formative evaluations, and one  
29 summative evaluation for each of the two probationary years and being offered a third  
30 contract by the employing district. For any applicant who has a change in job status because  
31 of a reduction in the workforce or a change in life circumstances, the scores required under  
32 this item may be scores achieved in any school district during the two-year nonrenewable  
33 provisional certification period; and
- 34 (iii) The employing school district shall recommend to the department of elementary  
35 and secondary education that the individual teacher be awarded a full professional  
36 certification by the state board under rules prescribed by the state board; and
- 37 (c) Upon completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133 and  
38 possession of a valid teaching certificate in the state from which the applicant's teacher  
39 preparation program was completed;
- 40 (4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it, on the basis of a relevant  
41 bachelor's degree, or higher degree, and a passing score for the designated exit examination,  
42 for individuals whose academic degree and professional experience are suitable to provide a  
43 basis for instruction solely in the subject matter of banking or financial responsibility, at the  
44 discretion of the state board. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of study of the  
45 holder and shall be restricted to those certificates established under subdivision (2) of  
46 subsection 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted under this subdivision shall be  
47 exempt from the teacher tenure act under sections 168.102 to 168.130 and each school district  
48 shall have the decision-making authority on whether to hire the holders of such certificates;
- 49 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on the basis of  
50 certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) and  
51 verification of ability to work with children as demonstrated by sixty contact hours in any one  
52 of the following areas as validated by the school principal: sixty contact hours in the  
53 classroom, of which at least forty-five must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute  
54 teacher, with at least thirty consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty contact hours of

55 teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a paraprofessional, for an  
56 initial four-year ABCTE certificate of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not be  
57 granted for the areas of early childhood education, or special education. For certification in  
58 the area of elementary education, ninety contact hours in the classroom shall be required, of  
59 which at least thirty shall be in an elementary classroom. Upon the completion of the  
60 following requirements, an applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous  
61 professional certificate under subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this section:

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

64 (b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring program of the American  
65 Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence or a district mentoring program approved by  
66 the state board of education;

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

68 (d) Participation in a beginning teacher assistance program; ~~or~~

69 (6) (a) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the board, which  
70 shall issue an initial visiting scholars certificate at the discretion of the board, based on the  
71 following criteria:

72 a. Verification from the hiring school district that the applicant will be employed as  
73 part of a business-education partnership initiative designed to build career pathways systems  
74 or employed as part of an initiative designed to fill vacant positions in hard-to-staff public  
75 schools or hard-to-fill subject areas for students in a grade or grades not lower than the ninth  
76 grade for which the applicant's academic degree or professional experience qualifies the  
77 applicant;

78 b. Appropriate and relevant bachelor's degree or higher, occupational license, or  
79 industry-recognized credential;

80 c. Completion of the application for a one-year visiting scholars certificate; and

81 d. Completion of a background check as prescribed under section 168.133.

82 (b) The initial visiting scholars certificate shall certify the holder of such certificate to  
83 teach for one year. An applicant shall be eligible to renew an initial visiting scholars  
84 certificate a maximum of two times, based upon the completion of the requirements listed  
85 under subparagraphs a., b., and d. of paragraph (a) of this subdivision; completion of  
86 professional development required by the school district and school; and attainment of a  
87 satisfactory performance-based teacher evaluation; or

88 **(7) By the state board, which shall issue an additional professional subject-area**  
89 **certification for specific content knowledge or for a specialty area to a certificate holder**  
90 **who:**

91 **(a) Applies for an additional professional subject-area certification;**

- 92           **(b) Successfully achieves an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher**  
93 **evaluation system from seven walk-through evaluations, two formative evaluations, and**  
94 **one summative evaluation of the applicant teaching specific content knowledge or the**  
95 **specialty area for which the additional professional subject-area certification is sought;**  
96           **(c) Receives a recommendation from the applicant's employing school district**  
97 **that the applicant be awarded an additional professional subject area-certification by**  
98 **the state board under rules prescribed by the state board; and**  
99           **(d) Completes a background check as prescribed in section 168.133.**

100           2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board policies and  
101 regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the professional development  
102 requirements of this section and shall continue in effect until they expire, are revoked or  
103 suspended, as provided by law. When such certificates are required to be renewed, the state  
104 board or its designee shall grant to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly  
105 equivalent to the one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II,  
106 or continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of such person's current  
107 certificate, be issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the classification system  
108 established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

109           3. (1) Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be based  
110 upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education which shall include  
111 completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133. The state board shall  
112 provide for the following levels of professional certification: an initial professional certificate  
113 and a career continuous professional certificate.

114           (2) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of  
115 requirements established by the state board of education and shall be valid based upon  
116 verification of actual teaching within a specified time period established by the state board of  
117 education. The state board shall require holders of the four-year initial professional certificate  
118 to:

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

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

126           (c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program.

127           (3) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon  
128 verification of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate

129 and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a) to  
130 (c) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or paragraphs (a) to (d) of subdivision (5) of  
131 subsection 1 of this section.

132 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon  
133 verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board  
134 guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional development per year  
135 which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum. Should the  
136 possessor of a valid career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet  
137 the fifteen-hour professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years,  
138 make up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall first  
139 complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may count hours in excess  
140 of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to make up the  
141 missing hours within two years, the certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate  
142 the certificate, the possessor shall complete twenty-four contact hours of professional  
143 development which may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college  
144 curriculum within the six months prior to or after reactivating the possessor's certificate. The  
145 requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the local school district  
146 which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

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

151 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;  
152 b. Possesses a master's degree; or  
153 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of  
154 education.

155 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who was not  
156 retained due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of certification. There shall  
157 also be established policies and procedures allowing a teacher who has not been employed in  
158 an educational position for three years or more to reactivate the teacher's last level of  
159 certification by completing twenty-four contact hours of professional development which  
160 may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six  
161 months prior to or after reactivating the teacher's certificate.

162 5. The state board shall, upon completion of a background check as prescribed in  
163 section 168.133, issue a professional certificate classification in the areas most closely  
164 aligned with an applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of  
165 teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a public school in

166 this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state or certification  
167 under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, provided that the certificate holder shall  
168 annually complete the state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall  
169 establish policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed  
170 a fee for a certificate of license to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in  
171 an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of  
172 license to teach. The board shall promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a provisional  
173 certificate of license, which shall be valid for three years and shall allow the holder to assume  
174 classroom duties pending the completion of a criminal background check under section  
175 168.133, for any applicant who:

- 176 (1) Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces stationed in Missouri;
- 177 (2) Relocated from another state within one year of the date of application;
- 178 (3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to be issued a teaching  
179 certificate of license from another state; and
- 180 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.

181 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to  
182 be deposited into the excellence in education fund established pursuant to section 160.268, for  
183 the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However, such fee shall not  
184 exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required as a  
185 condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be responsible for  
186 any fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but nothing in  
187 this section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy that permits fee reimbursement.

188 7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who entered  
189 covered employment with ten or more years of educational experience in another state or  
190 states and held a certificate issued by another state and subsequently worked in a school  
191 district covered by the public school retirement system of Missouri for ten or more years who  
192 later became certificated in Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to the member's  
193 original date of employment in a Missouri public school.

194 8. Within thirty days of receiving an application from a spouse of an active duty  
195 member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to  
196 be transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been transferred or is scheduled to be  
197 transferred to an adjacent state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri, or has  
198 moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-of-station basis and has successfully  
199 completed the background check described under subsection 5 of this section and section  
200 168.133, the state board shall issue to such applicant a full certificate of license to teach,

201 provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and has otherwise met all requirements  
202 to be issued such a certificate.

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