

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2776

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HALEY.

5998H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

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

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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows: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) a. Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation
19 program;

20 b. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop and maintain
21 an eighteen-hour (one thousand eighty minutes) online teacher preparation program related to
22 subjects appropriate for elementary and secondary education settings. Any charitable
23 organization registered in Missouri that is exempt from federal taxation under the Internal
24 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, may submit a teacher preparation program to the
25 department of elementary and secondary education for approval. Once approved, the
26 charitable organization shall be certified to develop and maintain a teacher preparedness
27 program. Approved teacher preparedness programs created by a charitable organization shall
28 be made available by the department of elementary and secondary education. An individual
29 with a bachelor's degree may complete an eighteen-hour online training program, either
30 created by the department or by a charitable organization, and receive a teacher certificate.
31 Such certificate shall not be accepted by Missouri public schools but may be accepted by
32 private schools and private school accrediting agencies;

33 (b) a. Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit assessment
34 for teachers or administrators designated by the state board of education;

35 b. (i) Applicants who have not successfully achieved a qualifying score on the
36 designated examinations will be issued a two-year nonrenewable provisional certificate;

37 (ii) During the two-year nonrenewable provisional certification, an individual teacher
38 may gain full professional certification by:

39 i. Achieving a qualifying score on the designated exam; or

40 ii. Successfully achieving an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher
41 evaluation system from seven walk-through evaluations, two formative evaluations, and one
42 summative evaluation for each of the two probationary years and being offered a third
43 contract by the employing district. For any applicant who has a change in job status because
44 of a reduction in the workforce or a change in life circumstances, the scores required under
45 this item may be scores achieved in any school district during the two-year nonrenewable
46 provisional certification period; and

47 (iii) The employing school district shall recommend to the department of elementary
48 and secondary education that the individual teacher be awarded a full professional
49 certification by the state board under rules prescribed by the state board; and

50 (c) Upon completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133 and
51 possession of a valid teaching certificate in the state from which the applicant's teacher
52 preparation program was completed;

53 (4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it, on the basis of a relevant
54 bachelor's degree, or higher degree, and a passing score for the designated exit examination,

55 for individuals whose academic degree and professional experience are suitable to provide a
56 basis for instruction solely in the subject matter of banking or financial responsibility, at the
57 discretion of the state board. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of study of the
58 holder and shall be restricted to those certificates established under subdivision (2) of
59 subsection 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted under this subdivision shall be
60 exempt from the teacher tenure act under sections 168.102 to 168.130 and each school district
61 shall have the decision-making authority on whether to hire the holders of such certificates;

62 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on the basis of
63 certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) or
64 Teachers of Tomorrow and verification of ability to work with children as demonstrated by
65 sixty contact hours in any one of the following areas as validated by the school principal:
66 sixty contact hours in the classroom, of which at least forty-five must be teaching; sixty
67 contact hours as a substitute teacher, with at least thirty consecutive hours in the same
68 classroom; sixty contact hours of teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of
69 teaching as a paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE or Teachers of Tomorrow
70 certificate of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not be granted for the areas of
71 early childhood education, gifted education, or special education. For certification in the area
72 of elementary education, ninety contact hours in the classroom shall be required, of which at
73 least thirty shall be in an elementary classroom. Upon the completion of the following
74 requirements, an applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional
75 certificate under subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this section:

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

78 (b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring program of the American
79 Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, Teachers of Tomorrow, or a district mentoring
80 program approved by the state board of education;

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

82 (d) Participation in a beginning teacher assistance program;

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

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

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

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

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

96 (b) The initial visiting scholars certificate shall certify the holder of such certificate to
97 teach for one year. An applicant shall be eligible to renew an initial visiting scholars
98 certificate a maximum of two times, based upon the completion of the requirements listed
99 under subparagraphs a., b., and d. of paragraph (a) of this subdivision; completion of
100 professional development required by the school district and school; and attainment of a
101 satisfactory performance-based teacher evaluation; ~~[or]~~

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

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

105 (b) Successfully achieves an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher
106 evaluation system from seven walk-through evaluations, two formative evaluations, and one
107 summative evaluation of the applicant teaching specific content knowledge or the specialty
108 area for which the additional professional subject-area certification is sought;

109 (c) Receives a recommendation from the applicant's employing school district that the
110 applicant be awarded an additional professional subject-area certification by the state board
111 under rules prescribed by the state board; and

112 (d) Completes a background check as prescribed in section 168.133; **or**

113 **(8) (a) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the state**
114 **board, which shall issue a full certificate of license to teach to an individual who holds a**
115 **temporary authorization certificate issued under paragraph (c) of this subdivision and**
116 **who receives a recommendation from the individual's employing school district after**
117 **completing the following requirements:**

118 **a. Complete two consecutive years of successful service in a Missouri public**
119 **school district as a substitute, paraprofessional, or teacher;**

120 **b. Participate in a mentoring program approved and provided by the school**
121 **district for a minimum of two years; and**

122 **c. Participate in school district professional development aligned with the**
123 **beginning teacher assistance program.**

124 **(b) In addition to the requirements under paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the**
125 **individual shall complete one of the following:**

126 **a. Achieve a qualifying score on the Missouri content assessment in the**
127 **individual's specific subject area; or**

128 **b. (i) Successfully achieve an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher**
129 **evaluation system from:**

130 **i. Seven walk-through evaluations;**

131 **ii. Two formative evaluations; and**

132 **iii. One summative evaluation for each of the two probationary years and being**
133 **offered a third contract by the employing school district.**

134 **(ii) For an applicant who has a change in job status because of a reduction in the**
135 **workforce or a change in life circumstances, the scores required under this**
136 **subparagraph may be scores achieved in any school district during the two-year**
137 **nonrenewable temporary authorization certificate period.**

138 **(c) a. To be issued a temporary authorization certificate, an applicant shall**
139 **complete a state-approved associate of applied science-level teacher preparation**
140 **program in a content area designated by the state board that requires an applicant to:**

141 **(i) Successfully complete a course of study, which shall include a professional**
142 **education component, with an associate's degree in a teaching field for which the state**
143 **board has established certification requirements;**

144 **(ii) Achieve a qualifying score on the Missouri general education assessment;**

145 **(iii) Submit an application to the state board for a temporary authorization**
146 **certificate; and**

147 **(iv) Complete a background check as prescribed under section 168.133.**

148 **b. A temporary authorization certificate issued by the state board under this**
149 **paragraph shall certify the holder to be employed by a school district for two years.**

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

159 **3. (1) Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be based**
160 **upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education which shall include**
161 **completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133. The state board shall**
162 **provide for the following levels of professional certification: an initial professional certificate**
163 **and a career continuous professional certificate.**

164 (2) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of
165 requirements established by the state board of education and shall be valid based upon
166 verification of actual teaching within a specified time period established by the state board of
167 education. The state board shall require holders of the four-year initial professional certificate
168 to:

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

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

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

177 (3) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon
178 verification of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate
179 and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a) to
180 (c) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or paragraphs (a) to (d) of subdivision (5) of
181 subsection 1 of this section.

182 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon
183 verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board
184 guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional development per year
185 which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum. Should the
186 possessor of a valid career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet
187 the fifteen-hour professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years,
188 make up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall first
189 complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may count hours in excess
190 of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to make up the
191 missing hours within two years, the certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate
192 the certificate, the possessor shall complete twenty-four contact hours of professional
193 development which may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college
194 curriculum within the six months prior to or after reactivating the possessor's certificate. The
195 requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the local school district
196 which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

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

- 201 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;
202 b. Possesses a master's degree; or
203 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of
204 education.
- 205 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who was not
206 retained due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of certification. There shall
207 also be established policies and procedures allowing a teacher who has not been employed in
208 an educational position for three years or more to reactivate the teacher's last level of
209 certification by completing twenty-four contact hours of professional development which
210 may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six
211 months prior to or after reactivating the teacher's certificate.
- 212 5. The state board shall, upon completion of a background check as prescribed in
213 section 168.133, issue a professional certificate classification in the areas most closely
214 aligned with an applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of
215 teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a public school in
216 this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state or certification
217 under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, provided that the certificate holder shall
218 annually complete the state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall
219 establish policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed
220 a fee for a certificate of license to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in
221 an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of
222 license to teach. The board shall promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a provisional
223 certificate of license, which shall be valid for three years and shall allow the holder to assume
224 classroom duties pending the completion of a criminal background check under section
225 168.133, for any applicant who:
- 226 (1) Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces stationed in Missouri;
227 (2) Relocated from another state within one year of the date of application;
228 (3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to be issued a teaching
229 certificate of license from another state; and
230 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.
- 231 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to
232 be deposited into the excellence in education fund established pursuant to section 160.268, for
233 the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However, such fee shall not
234 exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required as a
235 condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be responsible for
236 any fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but nothing in
237 this section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy that permits fee reimbursement.

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

244 8. Within thirty days of receiving an application from a spouse of an active duty
245 member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to
246 be transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been transferred or is scheduled to be
247 transferred to an adjacent state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri, or has
248 moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-of-station basis and has successfully
249 completed the background check described under subsection 5 of this section and section
250 168.133, the state board shall issue to such applicant a full certificate of license to teach,
251 provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and has otherwise met all requirements
252 to be issued such a certificate.

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