

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 620
94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Education, April 12, 2007, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

1235S.06C

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections 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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 161.375 and 168.021, to read as follows:

161.375. 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop standards for high-quality mentoring for beginning teachers and beginning principals no later than June 30, 2008. The standards shall be applicable to all public schools and shall be developed to ensure that the required district mentoring programs under subsection 3 of section 168.021, RSMo, meet common objectives.

2. Such standards shall be established for both of the required years of mentoring under subsection 3 of section 168.021, RSMo, and shall be based upon, but not be limited to, the following principles:

(1) Every district shall have a teacher-driven mentor program in collaboration with and support of the administration;

(2) Guidance and support are required for all beginning teachers, regardless of when they enter the profession;

(3) Communication between mentors and beginning teachers is open and confidential;

(4) Quality mentors are necessary to establish beginning teachers' trust and respect for their colleagues and profession; and

(5) All staff members provide informal support for beginning teachers.

20 **3. Quality mentor programs shall include, but not be limited to,**
21 **the following:**

22 **(1) An introduction to the cultural environment of the**
23 **community and the school district;**

24 **(2) A systemic and ongoing evaluation by all stakeholders;**

25 **(3) An individualized plan for beginning teachers that aligns**
26 **with the district's goals and needs;**

27 **(4) Appropriate criteria for selecting mentors;**

28 **(5) Comprehensive mentor training;**

29 **(6) A complete list of responsibilities for the mentor, beginning**
30 **teacher, and administrators; and**

31 **(7) Sufficient time for mentors to observe beginning teachers and**
32 **for the beginning teachers to observe master teachers, structured to**
33 **provide multiple opportunities over time and to minimize the need to**
34 **require substitute teachers to facilitate observation.**

35 **4. In developing such standards, the department shall involve**
36 **representatives from the state teacher organizations, administration**
37 **and principal organizations, Missouri advisory council for the**
38 **certification of educators as created by section 168.015, RSMo, Missouri**
39 **staff development council, and from colleges and universities.**

 168.021. 1. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the
2 state shall be granted as follows:

3 (1) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it,

4 (a) Upon the basis of college credit;

5 (b) Upon the basis of examination;

6 (2) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the state
7 board with advice from the advisory council established by section 168.015 to any
8 individual who presents to the state board a valid doctoral degree from an
9 accredited institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting
10 association such as North Central Association. Such certificate shall be limited
11 to the major area of postgraduate study of the holder, shall be issued only after
12 successful completion of the examination required for graduation pursuant to
13 rules adopted by the state board of education, and shall be restricted to those
14 certificates established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section;
15 or

16 (3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional certificate

17 classification in both the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with
18 the current areas of certification approved by the state board, commensurate with
19 the years of teaching experience of the applicant, and based upon the following
20 criteria:

21 (a) Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher
22 preparation program;

23 (b) Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit
24 assessment for teachers or administrators designated by the state board of
25 education. Applicants who have not successfully achieved a qualifying score on
26 the designated examinations will be issued a two-year nonrenewable provisional
27 certificate; and

28 (c) Upon completion of a background check and possession of a valid
29 teaching certificate in the state from which the applicant's teacher preparation
30 program was completed; or

31 **(4) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by**
32 **it, on the basis of certification by the American Board for Certification**
33 **of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE), for an initial ABCTE professional**
34 **certificate of license to teach, except in certification areas of**
35 **elementary and secondary education, early childhood, early childhood**
36 **special education, blind and partially sighted, and deaf and hearing**
37 **impaired, pending:**

38 (a) Ability to work with children as demonstrated by sixty
39 contact hours within the twenty-four-month period immediately
40 preceding the date of application for certificate of license in any one
41 of the following areas as validated by the school principal:

42 a. Sixty contact hours in the classroom, of which at least forty-
43 five must be teaching;

44 b. Sixty contact hours as a substitute teacher, with at least thirty
45 consecutive hours in the same classroom;

46 c. Sixty contact hours of teaching in a private school; or

47 d. Sixty contact hours of teaching as a paraprofessional;

48 (b) Completion of the twenty-four contact hours of professional
49 development within two years, which may include hours spent in class
50 in an appropriate college curriculum;

51 (c) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring program
52 of the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence or a

53 **district mentoring program approved by the state board of education;**
54 **and**

55 **(d) Attainment of a successful performance-based teacher**
56 **evaluation.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

86 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous
87 based upon verification of actual employment in an educational position as
88 provided for in state board guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of

89 professional development per year which may include hours spent in class in an
90 appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of a valid career continuous
91 professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour
92 professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make
93 up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall
94 first complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may
95 count hours in excess of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should
96 the possessor fail to make up the missing hours within two years, the certificate
97 shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the certificate, the possessor shall
98 complete twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may
99 include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within
100 the six months prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate. The
101 requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the local school
102 district which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

103 (c) A holder of a career continuous professional certificate shall be exempt
104 from the professional development contact hour requirements of paragraph (b) of
105 this subdivision if such teacher has a local professional development plan in place
106 within such teacher's school district and meets two of the three following criteria:
107 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of
108 education;
109 b. Possesses a master's degree; or
110 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board
111 of education.

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

120 5. The state board shall, upon an appropriate background check, issue a
121 professional certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an
122 applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of
123 teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a
124 public school in this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from

125 another state, provided that the certificate holder shall annually complete the
126 state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall establish
127 policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be
128 assessed a fee for a certificate license to teach in the public schools of
129 Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs
130 associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach.

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

140 7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who
141 entered covered employment with ten or more years of educational experience in
142 another state or states and held a certificate issued by another state and
143 subsequently worked in a school district covered by the public school retirement
144 system of Missouri for ten or more years who later became certificated in
145 Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to his or her original date of
146 employment in a Missouri public school.

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