

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]
HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 296

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2003

Unofficial

1130L.07T

AN ACT

To repeal sections 161.092, 168.021, and 168.071, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to educational standards.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 161.092, 168.021, and 168.071, RSMo, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 161.092, 168.021, and 168.071, to read as follows:

161.092. The state board of education shall:

(1) Adopt rules governing its own proceedings and formulate policies for the guidance of the commissioner of education and the department of elementary and secondary education;

(2) Carry out the educational policies of the state relating to public schools that are provided by law and supervise instruction in the public schools;

(3) Direct the investment of all moneys received by the state to be applied to the capital of any permanent fund established for the support of public education within the jurisdiction of the department of elementary and secondary education and see that the funds are applied to the branches of educational interest of the state that by grant, gift, devise or law they were originally intended, and if necessary institute suit for and collect the funds and return them to their legitimate channels;

(4) Cause to be assembled information which will reflect continuously the condition and management of the public schools of the state;

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

(5) Require of county clerks or treasurers, boards of education or other school officers, recorders and treasurers of cities, towns and villages, copies of all records required to be made by them and all other information in relation to the funds and condition of schools and the management thereof that is deemed necessary;

(6) Provide blanks suitable for use by officials in reporting the information required by the board;

(7) When conditions demand, cause the laws relating to schools to be published in a separate volume, with pertinent notes and comments, for the guidance of those charged with the execution of the laws;

(8) Grant, without fee **except as provided in section 168.021, RSMo**, certificates of qualification and licenses to teach in any of the public schools of the state, establish requirements therefor, formulate regulations governing the issuance thereof, [including, upon an appropriate background check, provisional certification to a person who holds a valid teaching certificate from another state and has five years of teaching experience in the same school district in the curriculum area and approximate grade level in another state, providing for full certification upon the satisfactory completion of five years of teaching in Missouri public schools,] and cause the certificates to be revoked for the reasons and in the manner provided in section 168.071, RSMo;

(9) Classify the public schools of the state, subject to limitations provided by law, establish requirements for the schools of each class, and formulate rules governing the inspection and accreditation of schools preparatory to classification, **with such requirements taking effect not less than two years from the date of adoption of the proposed rule by the state board of education, provided that this condition shall not apply to any requirement for which a timeline for adoption is mandated in either federal or state law;**

(10) Make an annual report on or before the first Wednesday after the first day of January to the general assembly or, when it is not in session, to the governor for publication and transmission to the general assembly. The report shall be for the last preceding school year, and shall include:

(a) A statement of the number of public schools in the state, the number of pupils attending the schools, their sex, and the branches taught;

(b) A statement of the number of teachers employed, their sex, their professional training, and their average salary;

(c) A statement of the receipts and disbursements of public school funds of every description, their sources, and the purposes for which they were disbursed;

(d) Suggestions for the improvement of public schools; and

(e) Any other information relative to the educational interests of the state that the law requires or the board deems important;

(11) Make an annual report to the general assembly and the governor concerning coordination with other agencies and departments of government that support family literacy programs and other services which influence educational attainment of children of all ages;

(12) Require from the chief officer of each division of the department of elementary and secondary education, on or before the thirty-first day of August of each year, reports containing information the board deems important and desires for publication;

(13) Cause fifty copies of its annual report to be reserved for the use of each division of the state department of elementary and secondary education, and ten copies for preservation in the state library;

(14) Have other powers and duties prescribed by law.

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 [doctor of philosophy] **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 [section 168.033 if appropriate] **rules adopted by the state board of education**, and shall be restricted to those certificates established pursuant to [subdivisions (1) and (2)] **subdivision (1)** of subsection [4] **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 approved by the state board, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the applicant, and based upon the following criteria:

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

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

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

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

system established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

3. [Any teacher holding a third class county certificate in the state during the 1972-73 school year shall upon his written request be given an examination by a person designated by the state commissioner of education to determine his eligibility to be granted a certificate of license to teach. The examination shall be comparable to those given by county superintendents to eligible applicants prior to July 1, 1974. Upon successful completion of the examination the applicant shall be issued a certificate by the state board of education entitling the holder to teach in the public schools of the state for a period of three years. A request for such examination must be presented to the commissioner of education on or before March first of the year in which the examination is to be administered. The commissioner of education shall cause the examination to be administered and the certificate issued to those successfully completing it prior to April first of the year in which the application for the examination was received.

4. After September 1, 1988,] Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be based upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education [which]. **The state board shall provide for the following levels of professional certification [including, but not limited to,]: an initial professional certificate and [culminating with] a career continuous professional certificate[.].**

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

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

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

(c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program;

(2) [One or more levels of renewable professional certificates shall be issued upon verification of completion of criteria established by the state board of education;

(3) **(a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon verification of completion of [criteria, which shall not exceed a master's degree or its equivalent and ten years' employment in an educational position, established by the state board of education] four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.**

(b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board guidelines[.] and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional development per year which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of a valid career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour professional development requirement,

the possessor may, within two years, make up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall first complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may count hours in excess of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to make up the missing hours within two years, the certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the certificate, the possessor shall complete twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate. The requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the local school district which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

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

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

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

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

6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to be deposited into the excellence in education revolving fund established pursuant to section 160.268, RSMo, for the issuance of the career continuous

professional certificate. However, such fee shall not exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required as a condition of issuance.

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

168.071. 1. The state board of education may refuse to issue or renew a certificate, or may, upon hearing, discipline the holder of a certificate of license to teach for the following causes:

(1) A certificate holder or applicant for a certificate has pleaded to or been found guilty of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude under the laws of this state, any other state, of the United States, or any other country, whether or not sentence is imposed;

(2) The certification was obtained through use of fraud, deception, misrepresentation or bribery;

(3) There is evidence of incompetence, immorality, or neglect of duty by the certificate holder;

(4) A certificate holder has been subject to disciplinary action relating to certification issued by another state, territory, federal agency, or country upon grounds for which discipline is authorized in this section; or

(5) If charges are filed by the local board of education, based upon the annulling of a written contract with the local board of education, for reasons other than election to the general assembly, without the consent of the majority of the members of the board that is a party to the contract.

2. A public school district may file charges seeking the discipline of a holder of a certificate of license to teach based upon any cause or combination of causes outlined in subsection 1 of this section, including annulment of a written contract. Charges shall be in writing, specify the basis for the charges, and be signed by the chief administrative officer of the district, or by the president of the board of education as authorized by a majority of the board of education. The board of education may also petition the office of the attorney general to file charges on behalf of the school district for any cause other than annulment of contract, with acceptance of the petition at the discretion of the attorney general.

3. The department of elementary and secondary education may file charges seeking the discipline of a holder of a certificate of license to teach based upon any cause or combination of causes outlined in subsection 1 of this section, other than annulment of contract. Charges shall be in writing, specify the basis for the charges, and be signed by legal counsel representing the department of elementary and secondary education.

4. If the underlying conduct or actions which are the basis for charges filed pursuant to this section are also the subject of a pending criminal charge against the person holding such

certificate, the certificate holder may request, in writing, a delayed hearing on advice of counsel under the fifth amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Based upon such a request, no hearing shall be held until after a trial has been completed on this criminal charge.

5. The certificate holder shall be given not less than thirty days' notice of any hearing held pursuant to this section.

6. Other provisions of this section notwithstanding, the certificate of license to teach shall be revoked or, in the case of an applicant, a certificate shall not be issued, if the certificate holder or applicant has pleaded guilty to or been found guilty of any of the following offenses established pursuant to Missouri law or offenses of a similar nature established under the laws of any other state or of the United States, or any other country, whether or not the sentence is imposed:

(1) Any dangerous felony as defined in section 556.061, RSMo, or murder in the first degree;

(2) Any of the following sexual offenses: rape; statutory rape in the first degree; statutory rape in the second degree; sexual assault; forcible sodomy; statutory sodomy in the first degree; statutory sodomy in the second degree; child molestation in the first degree; child molestation in the second degree; deviate sexual assault; sexual misconduct involving a child; sexual misconduct in the first degree; [or] sexual abuse; **enticement of a child; or attempting to entice a child;**

(3) Any of the following offenses against the family and related offenses: incest; abandonment of child in the first degree; abandonment of child in the second degree; endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree; abuse of a child; child used in a sexual performance; promoting sexual performance by a child; or trafficking in children; and

(4) Any of the following offenses involving child pornography and related offenses: promoting obscenity in the first degree; promoting obscenity in the second degree when the penalty is enhanced to a class D felony; promoting child pornography in the first degree; promoting child pornography in the second degree; possession of child pornography in the first degree; possession of child pornography in the second degree; furnishing child pornography to a minor; furnishing pornographic materials to minors; or coercing acceptance of obscene material.

7. When a certificate holder pleads guilty or is found guilty of any offense that would authorize the state board of education to seek discipline against that holder's certificate of license to teach, the local board of education or the department of elementary and secondary education shall immediately provide written notice to the state board of education and the attorney general regarding the plea of guilty or finding of guilty.

[7.] 8. The certificate holder whose certificate was revoked pursuant to subsection 6 of this section may appeal such revocation to the state board of education. Notice of this appeal must be received by the commissioner of education within ninety days of notice of revocation pursuant to this subsection. Failure of the certificate holder to notify the commissioner of the intent to appeal waives all rights to appeal the revocation. Upon notice of the certificate holder's

intent to appeal, an appeal hearing shall be held by a hearing officer designated by the commissioner of education, with the final decision made by the state board of education, based upon the record of that hearing. The certificate holder shall be given not less than thirty days' notice of the hearing, and an opportunity to be heard by the hearing officer, together with witnesses.

[8.] 9. In the case of any certificate holder who has surrendered or failed to renew his or her certificate of license to teach, the state board of education may refuse to issue or renew, or may suspend or revoke, such certificate for any of the reasons contained in this section.

[9.] 10. In those cases where the charges filed pursuant to this section are based upon an allegation of misconduct involving a minor child, the hearing officer may accept into the record the sworn testimony of the minor child relating to the misconduct received in any court or administrative hearing.

[10.] 11. Hearings, appeals or other matters involving certificate holders, licensees or applicants pursuant to this section may be informally resolved by consent agreement or agreed settlement or voluntary surrender of the certificate of license pursuant to the rules promulgated by the state board of education.

[11.] 12. The final decision of the state board of education is subject to judicial review pursuant to sections 536.100 to 536.140, RSMo.

[12.] 13. A certificate of license to teach to an individual who has been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not sentence is imposed, shall be issued only upon motion of the state board of education adopted by a unanimous affirmative vote of those members present and voting.

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