

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 663

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BARNITZ.

Read 1st time March 1, 2007, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

2574S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to members of the military and their families.

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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 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
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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

56 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon

57 verification of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional
58 certificate and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated
59 in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

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

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

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

83 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

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

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

93 after reactivating his or her certificate.

94 5. The state board shall, upon an appropriate background check, issue a
95 professional certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an
96 applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of
97 teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a
98 public school in this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from
99 another state, provided that the certificate holder shall annually complete the
100 state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall establish
101 policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be
102 assessed a fee for a certificate license to teach in the public schools of
103 Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs
104 associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach. **The board shall**
105 **additionally promulgate a rule to permit the issuance of a provisional**
106 **certificate of license permitting the holder to assume classroom duties**
107 **pending the completion of a background check conducted pursuant to**
108 **section 168.133 when the applicant is the spouse of a member of the**
109 **United States armed forces stationed in Missouri who has relocated**
110 **from another state within one year from the date of application for**
111 **Missouri certificate of license, who otherwise qualifies under the**
112 **provisions of this subsection, if a background check was required for**
113 **the issuance of the teaching certificate from another state.**

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

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

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