

SENATE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 782

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI,
AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new
2 section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021,
3 to read as follows:

4 168.021. 1. Certificates of license to teach in the public
5 schools of the state shall be granted as follows:

6 (1) By the state board, under rules and regulations
7 prescribed by it:

8 (a) Upon the basis of college credit;

9 (b) Upon the basis of examination;

10 (2) By the state board, under rules and regulations
11 prescribed by the state board with advice from the advisory
12 council established by section 168.015 to any individual who
13 presents to the state board a valid doctoral degree from an
14 accredited institution of higher education accredited by a
15 regional accrediting association such as North Central
16 Association. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area
17 of postgraduate study of the holder, shall be issued only after
18 successful completion of the examination required for graduation

1 pursuant to rules adopted by the state board of education, and
2 shall be restricted to those certificates established pursuant to
3 subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section;

4 (3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional
5 certificate classification in both the general and specialized
6 areas most closely aligned with the current areas of
7 certification approved by the state board, commensurate with the
8 years of teaching experience of the applicant, and based upon the
9 following criteria:

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

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

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

22 (4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it, on
23 the basis of a relevant bachelor's degree, or higher degree, and
24 a passing score for the designated exit examination, for
25 individuals whose academic degree and professional experience are
26 suitable to provide a basis for instruction solely in the subject
27 matter of banking or financial responsibility, at the discretion
28 of the state board. Such certificate shall be limited to the

1 major area of study of the holder and shall be restricted to
2 those certificates established under subdivision (1) of
3 subsection 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted
4 under this subdivision shall be exempt from the teacher tenure
5 act under sections 168.102 to 168.130 and each school district
6 shall have the decision-making authority on whether to hire the
7 holders of such certificates; or

8 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations
9 prescribed by it, on the basis of certification by the American
10 Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) and
11 verification of ability to work with children as demonstrated by
12 sixty contact hours in any one of the following areas as
13 validated by the school principal: sixty contact hours in the
14 classroom, of which at least forty-five must be teaching; sixty
15 contact hours as a substitute teacher, with at least thirty
16 consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty contact hours of
17 teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of teaching
18 as a paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE certificate
19 of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not be
20 granted for the areas of early childhood education, [elementary
21 education,] or special education. For certification in the area
22 of elementary education, ninety contact hours in the classroom
23 shall be required, of which at least thirty shall be in an
24 elementary classroom. Upon the completion of the requirements
25 listed in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision,
26 an applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous
27 professional certificate under subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of
28 this section:

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

4 (b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring
5 program of the American Board for Certification of Teacher
6 Excellence or a district mentoring program approved by the state
7 board of education;

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

10 (d) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program.

11 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law
12 or state board policies and regulations prior to September 1,
13 1988, shall be exempt from the professional development
14 requirements of this section and shall continue in effect until
15 they expire, are revoked or suspended, as provided by law. When
16 such certificates are required to be renewed, the state board or
17 its designee shall grant to each holder of such a certificate the
18 certificate most nearly equivalent to the one so held. Anyone
19 who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II, or
20 continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of his
21 or her current certificate, be issued the appropriate level of
22 certificate based upon the classification system established
23 pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

24 3. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools
25 of the state shall be based upon minimum requirements prescribed
26 by the state board of education which shall include completion of
27 a background check as prescribed in section 168.133. The state
28 board shall provide for the following levels of professional

1 certification: an initial professional certificate and a career
2 continuous professional certificate.

3 (1) The initial professional certificate shall be issued
4 upon completion of requirements established by the state board of
5 education and shall be valid based upon verification of actual
6 teaching within a specified time period established by the state
7 board of education. The state board shall require holders of the
8 four-year initial professional certificate to:

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

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

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

19 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate
20 shall be issued upon verification of completion of four years of
21 teaching under the initial professional certificate and upon
22 verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in
23 paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subdivision (1) of this
24 subsection or paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of subdivision
25 (5) of subsection 1 of this section.

26 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be
27 continuous based upon verification of actual employment in an
28 educational position as provided for in state board guidelines

1 and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional
2 development per year which may include hours spent in class in an
3 appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of a valid
4 career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given
5 year, to meet the fifteen-hour professional development
6 requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make up the
7 missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the
8 possessor shall first complete the fifteen-hour requirement for
9 the current year and then may count hours in excess of the
10 current year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor
11 fail to make up the missing hours within two years, the
12 certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the
13 certificate, the possessor shall complete twenty-four contact
14 hours of professional development which may include hours spent
15 in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the
16 six months prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate.
17 The requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and
18 verified by the local school district which employs the holder of
19 the career continuous professional certificate.

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

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

28 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

1 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by
2 the state board of education.

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

13 5. The state board shall, upon completion of a background
14 check as prescribed in section 168.133, issue a professional
15 certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with
16 an applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with
17 the years of teaching experience of the applicant, to any person
18 who is hired to teach in a public school in this state and who
19 possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state or
20 certification under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this
21 section, provided that the certificate holder shall annually
22 complete the state board's requirements for such level of
23 certification, and shall establish policies by which residents of
24 states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed a fee for
25 a certificate license to teach in the public schools of Missouri.
26 Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover any or all
27 costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to
28 teach. The board shall promulgate rules to authorize the

1 issuance of a provisional certificate of license, which shall
2 allow the holder to assume classroom duties pending the
3 completion of a criminal background check under section 168.133,
4 for any applicant who:

5 (1) Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces stationed
6 in Missouri;

7 (2) Relocated from another state within one year of the
8 date of application;

9 (3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to be
10 issued a teaching certificate of license from another state; and

11 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.

12 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial
13 professional certificate a fee, to be deposited into the
14 excellence in education revolving fund established pursuant to
15 section 160.268, for the issuance of the career continuous
16 professional certificate. However, such fee shall not exceed the
17 combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check
18 required as a condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial
19 ABCTE certificate shall be responsible for any fees associated
20 with the program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but
21 nothing in this section shall prohibit a district from developing
22 a policy that permits fee reimbursement.

23 7. Any member of the public school retirement system of
24 Missouri who entered covered employment with ten or more years of
25 educational experience in another state or states and held a
26 certificate issued by another state and subsequently worked in a
27 school district covered by the public school retirement system of
28 Missouri for ten or more years who later became certificated in

1 Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to his or her
2 original date of employment in a Missouri public school.