

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 401

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROWDEN.

Read 1st time February 7, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

1745S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to a visiting scholars certificate.

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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section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 (3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional certificate
16 classification in both the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with
17 the current areas of certification approved by the state board, commensurate with
18 the years of teaching experience of the applicant, and based upon the following
19 criteria:

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

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

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

27 (c) Upon completion of a background check as prescribed in section
28 168.133 and possession of a valid teaching certificate in the state from which the
29 applicant's teacher preparation program was completed;

30 (4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it, on the basis of a
31 relevant bachelor's degree, or higher degree, and a passing score for the
32 designated exit examination, for individuals whose academic degree and
33 professional experience are suitable to provide a basis for instruction solely in the
34 subject matter of banking or financial responsibility, at the discretion of the state
35 board. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of study of the holder
36 and shall be restricted to those certificates established under subdivision (1) of
37 subsection 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted under this subdivision
38 shall be exempt from the teacher tenure act under sections 168.102 to 168.130
39 and each school district shall have the decision-making authority on whether to
40 hire the holders of such certificates; [or]

41 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on
42 the basis of certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher
43 Excellence (ABCTE) and verification of ability to work with children as
44 demonstrated by sixty contact hours in any one of the following areas as validated
45 by the school principal: sixty contact hours in the classroom, of which at least
46 forty-five must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute teacher, with at
47 least thirty consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty contact hours of
48 teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a
49 paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE certificate of license to teach,
50 except that such certificate shall not be granted for the areas of early childhood
51 education, or special education. For certification in the area of elementary
52 education, ninety contact hours in the classroom shall be required, of which at
53 least thirty shall be in an elementary classroom. Upon the completion of the
54 requirements listed in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision, an
55 applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional certificate

56 under subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section:

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

60 (b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring program of the
61 American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence or a district mentoring
62 program approved by the state board of education;

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

64 (d) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program; **or**

65 **(6) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by**
66 **it, which shall issue an initial visiting scholars certificate at the**
67 **discretion of the board, based on the following criteria:**

68 **(a) Verification from the hiring school district that the applicant**
69 **will be employed as part of a business-education partnership initiative**
70 **designed to build career pathways systems for students in a grade or**
71 **grades not lower than the ninth grade for which the applicant's**
72 **academic degree or professional experience qualifies him or her;**

73 **(b) Appropriate and relevant bachelor's degree or higher,**
74 **occupational license, or industry-recognized credential;**

75 **(c) Completion of the application for a one-year visiting scholars**
76 **certificate; and**

77 **(d) Completion of a background check as prescribed under**
78 **section 168.133.**

79 **The initial visiting scholars certificate shall certify the holder of such**
80 **certificate to teach for one year. An applicant shall be eligible to renew**
81 **an initial visiting scholars certificate a maximum of two times, based**
82 **upon the completion of the requirements listed under paragraphs (a),**
83 **(b), and (d) of this subdivision; completion of professional development**
84 **required by the school district and school; and attainment of a**
85 **satisfactory performance-based teacher evaluation.**

86 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board
87 policies and regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the
88 professional development requirements of this section and shall continue in effect
89 until they expire, are revoked or suspended, as provided by law. When such
90 certificates are required to be renewed, the state board or its designee shall grant
91 to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly equivalent to the

92 one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II, or
93 continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of his or her current
94 certificate, be issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the
95 classification system established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

96 3. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall
97 be based upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education
98 which shall include completion of a background check as prescribed in section
99 168.133. The state board shall provide for the following levels of professional
100 certification: an initial professional certificate and a career continuous
101 professional certificate.

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

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

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

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

115 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon
116 verification of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional
117 certificate and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated
118 in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or paragraphs
119 (a), (b), (c), and (d) of subdivision (5) of subsection 1 of this section.

120 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous
121 based upon verification of actual employment in an educational position as
122 provided for in state board guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of
123 professional development per year which may include hours spent in class in an
124 appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of a valid career continuous
125 professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour
126 professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make
127 up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall

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

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

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

143 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

144 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board
145 of education.

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

154 5. The state board shall, upon completion of a background check as
155 prescribed in section 168.133, issue a professional certificate classification in the
156 areas most closely aligned with an applicant's current areas of certification,
157 commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the applicant, to any
158 person who is hired to teach in a public school in this state and who possesses a
159 valid teaching certificate from another state or certification under subdivision (4)
160 of subsection 1 of this section, provided that the certificate holder shall annually
161 complete the state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall
162 establish policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri
163 may be assessed a fee for a certificate of license to teach in the public schools of

164 Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs
165 associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach. The board shall
166 promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a provisional certificate of license,
167 which shall allow the holder to assume classroom duties pending the completion
168 of a criminal background check under section 168.133, for any applicant who:

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

170 (2) Relocated from another state within one year of the date of
171 application;

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

174 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.

175 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional
176 certificate a fee, to be deposited into the excellence in education revolving fund
177 established pursuant to section 160.268, for the issuance of the career continuous
178 professional certificate. However, such fee shall not exceed the combined costs
179 of issuance and any criminal background check required as a condition of
180 issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be responsible for any
181 fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but
182 nothing in this section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy that
183 permits fee reimbursement.

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

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