

SENATE BILL NO. 1394

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR O'LAUGHLIN.

5550S.01H

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new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

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

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

5 (a) Upon the basis of college credit;

6 (b) Upon the basis of examination;

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

18 established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of
19 this section;

20 (3) By the state board, which shall issue the
21 professional certificate classification in both the general
22 and specialized areas most closely aligned with the current
23 areas of certification approved by the state board,
24 commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the
25 applicant, and based upon the following criteria:

26 (a) **a.** Recommendation of a state-approved
27 baccalaureate-level teacher preparation program;

28 **b.** The department of elementary and secondary
29 education shall develop and maintain a fifteen-credit-hour
30 online teacher preparation program related to subjects
31 appropriate for teachers in different content areas as
32 determined by the department. The department may contract
33 with an entity experienced in developing online teacher
34 preparation programs or a charitable organization registered
35 in Missouri that is exempt from federal taxation under the
36 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to develop and
37 maintain the online teacher preparation program. Such
38 entity or charitable organization shall be certified to
39 develop and maintain the program by the department or the
40 state auditor. An individual with a bachelor's degree may
41 complete the fifteen-credit-hour online training program in
42 lieu of completing a state-approved baccalaureate-level
43 teacher preparation program;

44 **c.** An individual with a bachelor's degree who enrolls
45 in a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation
46 program shall be required to complete no more than fifteen
47 credit hours in the teacher preparation program in order to
48 receive the recommendation of the program;

49 (b) a. Successful attainment of the Missouri
50 qualifying score on the exit assessment for teachers or
51 administrators designated by the state board of education;

52 b. (i) Applicants who have not successfully achieved
53 a qualifying score on the designated examinations will be
54 issued a two-year nonrenewable provisional certificate;

55 (ii) During the two-year nonrenewable provisional
56 certification, an individual teacher may gain full
57 professional certification by:

58 i. Achieving a qualifying score on the designated
59 exam; or

60 ii. Successfully achieving an acceptable score on the
61 state-approved teacher evaluation system from seven walk-
62 through evaluations, two formative evaluations, and one
63 summative evaluation for each of the two probationary years
64 and being offered a third contract by the employing
65 district. For any applicant who has a change in job status
66 because of a reduction in the workforce or a change in life
67 circumstances, the scores required under this item may be
68 scores achieved in any school district during the two-year
69 nonrenewable provisional certification period; and

70 (iii) The employing school district shall recommend to
71 the department of elementary and secondary education that
72 the individual teacher be awarded a full professional
73 certification by the state board under rules prescribed by
74 the state board; and

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

79 (4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it,
80 on the basis of a relevant bachelor's degree, or higher

81 degree, and a passing score for the designated exit
82 examination, for individuals whose academic degree and
83 professional experience are suitable to provide a basis for
84 instruction solely in the subject matter of banking or
85 financial responsibility, at the discretion of the state
86 board. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area
87 of study of the holder and shall be restricted to those
88 certificates established under subdivision (2) of subsection
89 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted under
90 this subdivision shall be exempt from the teacher tenure act
91 under sections 168.102 to 168.130 and each school district
92 shall have the decision-making authority on whether to hire
93 the holders of such certificates;

94 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations
95 prescribed by it, on the basis of certification by the
96 American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence
97 (ABCTE) and verification of ability to work with children as
98 demonstrated by sixty contact hours in any one of the
99 following areas as validated by the school principal: sixty
100 contact hours in the classroom, of which at least forty-five
101 must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute
102 teacher, with at least thirty consecutive hours in the same
103 classroom; sixty contact hours of teaching in a private
104 school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a
105 paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE certificate
106 of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not
107 be granted for the areas of early childhood education, or
108 special education. For certification in the area of
109 elementary education, ninety contact hours in the classroom
110 shall be required, of which at least thirty shall be in an
111 elementary classroom. Upon the completion of the following
112 requirements, an applicant shall be eligible to apply for a

113 career continuous professional certificate under subdivision
114 (3) of subsection 3 of this section:

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

118 (b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring
119 program of the American Board for Certification of Teacher
120 Excellence or a district mentoring program approved by the
121 state board of education;

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

124 (d) Participation in a beginning teacher assistance
125 program; or

126 (6) (a) By the state board, under rules and
127 regulations prescribed by the board, which shall issue an
128 initial visiting scholars certificate at the discretion of
129 the board, based on the following criteria:

130 a. Verification from the hiring school district that
131 the applicant will be employed as part of a business-
132 education partnership initiative designed to build career
133 pathways systems or employed as part of an initiative
134 designed to fill vacant positions in hard-to-staff public
135 schools or hard-to-fill subject areas for students in a
136 grade or grades not lower than the ninth grade for which the
137 applicant's academic degree or professional experience
138 qualifies the applicant;

139 b. Appropriate and relevant bachelor's degree or
140 higher, occupational license, or industry-recognized
141 credential;

142 c. Completion of the application for a one-year
143 visiting scholars certificate; and

144 d. Completion of a background check as prescribed
145 under section 168.133.

146 (b) The initial visiting scholars certificate shall
147 certify the holder of such certificate to teach for one
148 year. An applicant shall be eligible to renew an initial
149 visiting scholars certificate a maximum of two times, based
150 upon the completion of the requirements listed under
151 subparagraphs a., b., and d. of paragraph (a) of this
152 subdivision; completion of professional development required
153 by the school district and school; and attainment of a
154 satisfactory performance-based teacher evaluation.

155 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to
156 law or state board policies and regulations prior to
157 September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the professional
158 development requirements of this section and shall continue
159 in effect until they expire, are revoked or suspended, as
160 provided by law. When such certificates are required to be
161 renewed, the state board or its designee shall grant to each
162 holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly
163 equivalent to the one so held. Anyone who holds, as of
164 August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II, or continuous
165 professional certificate shall, upon expiration of such
166 person's current certificate, be issued the appropriate
167 level of certificate based upon the classification system
168 established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

169 3. (1) Certificates of license to teach in the public
170 schools of the state shall be based upon minimum
171 requirements prescribed by the state board of education
172 which shall include completion of a background check as
173 prescribed in section 168.133. The state board shall
174 provide for the following levels of professional

175 certification: an initial professional certificate and a
176 career continuous professional certificate.

177 (2) The initial professional certificate shall be
178 issued upon completion of requirements established by the
179 state board of education and shall be valid based upon
180 verification of actual teaching within a specified time
181 period established by the state board of education. The
182 state board shall require holders of the four-year initial
183 professional certificate to:

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

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

193 (c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance
194 program.

195 (3) (a) The career continuous professional
196 certificate shall be issued upon verification of completion
197 of four years of teaching under the initial professional
198 certificate and upon verification of the completion of the
199 requirements articulated in paragraphs (a) to (c) of
200 subdivision (2) of this subsection or paragraphs (a) to (d)
201 of subdivision (5) of subsection 1 of this section.

202 (b) The career continuous professional certificate
203 shall be continuous based upon verification of actual
204 employment in an educational position as provided for in
205 state board guidelines and completion of fifteen contact
206 hours of professional development per year which may include

207 hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum.
208 Should the possessor of a valid career continuous
209 professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet
210 the fifteen-hour professional development requirement, the
211 possessor may, within two years, make up the missing hours.
212 In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall
213 first complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current
214 year and then may count hours in excess of the current year
215 requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to
216 make up the missing hours within two years, the certificate
217 shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the
218 certificate, the possessor shall complete twenty-four
219 contact hours of professional development which may include
220 hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college
221 curriculum within the six months prior to or after
222 reactivating the possessor's certificate. The requirements
223 of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the
224 local school district which employs the holder of the career
225 continuous professional certificate.

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

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

234 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

235 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as
236 approved by the state board of education.

237 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by
238 which a teacher who was not retained due to a reduction in

239 force may retain the current level of certification. There
240 shall also be established policies and procedures allowing a
241 teacher who has not been employed in an educational position
242 for three years or more to reactivate the teacher's last
243 level of certification by completing twenty-four contact
244 hours of professional development which may include hours
245 spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum
246 within the six months prior to or after reactivating the
247 teacher's certificate.

248 5. The state board shall, upon completion of a
249 background check as prescribed in section 168.133, issue a
250 professional certificate classification in the areas most
251 closely aligned with an applicant's current areas of
252 certification, commensurate with the years of teaching
253 experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to
254 teach in a public school in this state and who possesses a
255 valid teaching certificate from another state or
256 certification under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this
257 section, provided that the certificate holder shall annually
258 complete the state board's requirements for such level of
259 certification, and shall establish policies by which
260 residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be
261 assessed a fee for a certificate of license to teach in the
262 public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount
263 sufficient to recover any or all costs associated with the
264 issuing of a certificate of license to teach. The board
265 shall promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a
266 provisional certificate of license, which shall be valid for
267 three years and shall allow the holder to assume classroom
268 duties pending the completion of a criminal background check
269 under section 168.133, for any applicant who:

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

272 (2) Relocated from another state within one year of
273 the date of application;

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

277 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.

278 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial
279 professional certificate a fee, to be deposited into the
280 excellence in education fund established pursuant to section
281 160.268, for the issuance of the career continuous
282 professional certificate. However, such fee shall not
283 exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal
284 background check required as a condition of issuance.
285 Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be
286 responsible for any fees associated with the program leading
287 to the issuance of the certificate, but nothing in this
288 section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy
289 that permits fee reimbursement.

290 7. Any member of the public school retirement system
291 of Missouri who entered covered employment with ten or more
292 years of educational experience in another state or states
293 and held a certificate issued by another state and
294 subsequently worked in a school district covered by the
295 public school retirement system of Missouri for ten or more
296 years who later became certificated in Missouri shall have
297 that certificate dated back to the member's original date of
298 employment in a Missouri public school.

299 8. Within thirty days of receiving an application from
300 a spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the
301 United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to be

302 transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been
303 transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to an adjacent
304 state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri,
305 or has moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-
306 of-station basis and has successfully completed the
307 background check described under subsection 5 of this
308 section and section 168.133, the state board shall issue to
309 such applicant a full certificate of license to teach,
310 provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and
311 has otherwise met all requirements to be issued such a
312 certificate.

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