

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1639

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES FUNDERBURK (Sponsor),
JONES (110) AND SCHARNHORST (Co-sponsors).

5561L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to teaching certificates.

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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows: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 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 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 rules adopted by the state board of education, and shall be restricted to those certificates established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section;

(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

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16 approved by the state board, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the
17 applicant, and based upon the following criteria:

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

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

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

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

36 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on the basis of
37 certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) and
38 verification of ability to work with children as demonstrated by sixty contact hours in any one
39 of the following areas as validated by the school principal: sixty contact hours in the classroom,
40 of which at least forty-five must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute teacher, with at
41 least thirty consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty contact hours of teaching in a private
42 school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE
43 certificate of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not be granted for the areas of
44 early childhood education[, elementary education,] or special education. Upon the completion
45 of the requirements listed in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision, an applicant shall
46 be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional certificate under subdivision (2) of
47 subsection 3 of this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

81 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon verification
82 of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate and upon
83 verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of
84 subdivision (1) of this subsection or paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of subdivision (5) of
85 subsection 1 of this section.

86 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon
87 verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board
88 guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional development per year which
89 may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of
90 a valid career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour
91 professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make up the
92 missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall first complete the
93 fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may count hours in excess of the current
94 year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to make up the missing hours
95 within two years, the certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the certificate, the
96 possessor shall complete twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may
97 include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months
98 prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate. The requirements of this paragraph shall be
99 monitored and verified by the local school district which employs the holder of the career
100 continuous professional certificate.

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

- 105 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;
 - 106 b. Possesses a master's degree; or
 - 107 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of education.
- 108 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who was not retained
109 due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of certification. There shall also be
110 established policies and procedures allowing a teacher who has not been employed in an
111 educational position for three years or more to reactivate his or her last level of certification by
112 completing twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may include hours
113 spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or after
114 reactivating his or her certificate.

115 5. The state board shall, upon completion of a background check as prescribed in section
116 168.133, issue a professional certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an
117 applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of
118 the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a public school in this state and who
119 possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state or certification under subdivision (4) of
120 subsection 1 of this section, provided that the certificate holder shall annually complete the state
121 board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall establish policies by which

122 residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed a fee for a certificate of
123 license to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to
124 recover any or all costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach. The board
125 shall promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a provisional certificate of license, which shall
126 allow the holder to assume classroom duties pending the completion of a criminal background
127 check under section 168.133, for any applicant who:

- 128 (1) Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces stationed in Missouri;
- 129 (2) Relocated from another state within one year of the date of application;
- 130 (3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to be issued a teaching certificate
131 of license from another state; and
- 132 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.

133 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to be
134 deposited into the excellence in education revolving fund established pursuant to section
135 160.268, for the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However, such fee
136 shall not exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required as
137 a condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be responsible for any
138 fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but nothing in this
139 section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy that permits fee reimbursement.

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

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