

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1928

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE POLLITT (52).

4455H.01I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to visiting scholars 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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows: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 (2) 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 approved by the state board, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the applicant, and based upon the following criteria:

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.

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
22 not 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
28 bachelor's degree, or higher degree, and a passing score for the designated exit examination,
29 for individuals whose academic degree and professional experience are suitable to provide a
30 basis for instruction solely in the subject matter of banking or financial responsibility, at the
31 discretion of the state board. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of study of the
32 holder and shall be restricted to those certificates established under subdivision (2) of
33 subsection 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted under this subdivision shall be
34 exempt from the teacher tenure act under sections 168.102 to 168.130 and each school district
35 shall have the decision-making authority on whether to hire the holders of such certificates;

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
40 classroom, of which at least forty-five must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute
41 teacher, with at least thirty consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty contact hours of
42 teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a paraprofessional, for an
43 initial four-year ABCTE certificate of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not be
44 granted for the areas of early childhood education, or special education. For certification in
45 the area of elementary education, ninety contact hours in the classroom shall be required, of
46 which at least thirty shall be in an elementary classroom. Upon the completion of the
47 **following** requirements ~~[listed in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision]~~, an
48 applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional certificate under
49 subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this section:

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

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

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

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

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

60 ~~[(a)]~~ **a.** Verification from the hiring school district that the applicant will be employed
61 as part of a business-education partnership initiative designed to build career pathways
62 systems **or employed as part of an initiative designed to fill vacant positions in hard-to-**
63 **staff public schools or hard-to-fill subject areas** for students in a grade or grades not lower
64 than the ninth grade for which the applicant's academic degree or professional experience
65 qualifies ~~him or her~~ **the applicant**;

66 ~~[(b)]~~ **b.** Appropriate and relevant bachelor's degree or higher, occupational license, or
67 industry-recognized credential;

68 ~~[(c)]~~ **c.** Completion of the application for a one-year visiting scholars certificate; and

69 ~~[(d)]~~ **d.** Completion of a background check as prescribed under section 168.133.

70 (b) The initial visiting scholars certificate shall certify the holder of such certificate to
71 teach for one year. An applicant shall be eligible to renew an initial visiting scholars
72 certificate a maximum of two times, based upon the completion of the requirements listed
73 under ~~paragraphs (a), (b), and (d)]~~ **subparagraphs a., b., and d. of paragraph (a)** of this
74 subdivision; completion of professional development required by the school district and
75 school; and attainment of a satisfactory performance-based teacher evaluation.

76 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board policies and
77 regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the professional development
78 requirements of this section and shall continue in effect until they expire, are revoked or
79 suspended, as provided by law. When such certificates are required to be renewed, the state
80 board or its designee shall grant to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly
81 equivalent to the one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II,
82 or continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of ~~his or her~~ **such person's**
83 current certificate, be issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the classification
84 system established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

85 3. (1) Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be based
86 upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education which shall include
87 completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133. The state board shall
88 provide for the following levels of professional certification: an initial professional certificate
89 and a career continuous professional certificate.

90 (2) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of
91 requirements established by the state board of education and shall be valid based upon

92 verification of actual teaching within a specified time period established by the state board of
93 education. The state board shall require holders of the four-year initial professional certificate
94 to:

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

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

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

103 (3) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon
104 verification of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate
105 and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a)~~], (b),~~
106 ~~and] to~~ (c) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or paragraphs (a)~~], (b), (c), and] to~~ (d) of
107 subdivision (5) of subsection 1 of this section.

108 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon
109 verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board
110 guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional development per year
111 which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum. Should the
112 possessor of a valid career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet
113 the fifteen-hour professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years,
114 make up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall first
115 complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may count hours in excess
116 of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to make up the
117 missing hours within two years, the certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate
118 the certificate, the possessor shall complete twenty-four contact hours of professional
119 development which may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college
120 curriculum within the six months prior to or after reactivating ~~[his or her]~~ **the possessor's**
121 certificate. The requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the local
122 school district which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

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

- 127 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;
128 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

129 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of
130 education.

131 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who was not
132 retained due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of certification. There shall
133 also be established policies and procedures allowing a teacher who has not been employed in
134 an educational position for three years or more to reactivate ~~[his or her]~~ **the teacher's** last
135 level of certification by completing twenty-four contact hours of professional development
136 which may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within
137 the six months prior to or after reactivating ~~[his or her]~~ **the teacher's** certificate.

138 5. The state board shall, upon completion of a background check as prescribed in
139 section 168.133, issue a professional certificate classification in the areas most closely
140 aligned with an applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of
141 teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a public school in
142 this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state or certification
143 under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, provided that the certificate holder shall
144 annually complete the state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall
145 establish policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed
146 a fee for a certificate of license to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in
147 an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of
148 license to teach. The board shall promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a provisional
149 certificate of license, which shall be valid for three years and shall allow the holder to assume
150 classroom duties pending the completion of a criminal background check under section
151 168.133, for any applicant who:

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

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

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

156 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.

157 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to
158 be deposited into the excellence in education ~~[revolving]~~ fund established pursuant to section
159 160.268, for the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However, such fee
160 shall not exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required
161 as a condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be responsible
162 for any fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but nothing
163 in this section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy that permits fee
164 reimbursement.

165 7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who entered
166 covered employment with ten or more years of educational experience in another state or
167 states and held a certificate issued by another state and subsequently worked in a school
168 district covered by the public school retirement system of Missouri for ten or more years who
169 later became certificated in Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to ~~[his or her]~~ **the**
170 **member's** original date of employment in a Missouri public school.

171 8. Within thirty days of receiving an application from a spouse of an active duty
172 member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to
173 be transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been transferred or is scheduled to be
174 transferred to an adjacent state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri, or has
175 moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-of-station basis and has successfully
176 completed the background check described under subsection 5 of this section and section
177 168.133, the state board shall issue to such applicant a full certificate of license to teach,
178 provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and has otherwise met all requirements
179 to be issued such a certificate.

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