

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1928**  
**101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

4455H.02C

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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**AN ACT**

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

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*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Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows: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) a. Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit assessment  
21 for teachers or administrators designated by the state board of education[-];

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

24 (ii) **During the two-year nonrenewable provisional certification, an individual  
25 teacher may gain full professional certification by:**

26 i. **Achieving a qualifying score on the designated exam; or**

27 ii. **Successfully achieving an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher  
28 evaluation system from seven walk-through evaluations, two formative evaluations, and  
29 one summative evaluation for each of the two probationary years and being offered a  
30 third contract by the employing district. For any applicant who has a change in job  
31 status because of a reduction in the workforce or a change in life circumstances, the  
32 scores required under this item may be scores achieved in any school district during the  
33 two-year nonrenewable provisional certification period; and**

34 (iii) **The employing school district shall recommend to the department of  
35 elementary and secondary education that the individual teacher be awarded a full  
36 professional certification by the state board under rules prescribed by the state board;  
37 and**

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

41 (4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it, on the basis of a relevant  
42 bachelor's degree, or higher degree, and a passing score for the designated exit examination,  
43 for individuals whose academic degree and professional experience are suitable to provide a  
44 basis for instruction solely in the subject matter of banking or financial responsibility, at the  
45 discretion of the state board. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of study of the  
46 holder and shall be restricted to those certificates established under subdivision (2) of  
47 subsection 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted under this subdivision shall be  
48 exempt from the teacher tenure act under sections 168.102 to 168.130 and each school district  
49 shall have the decision-making authority on whether to hire the holders of such certificates;

50 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on the basis of  
51 certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) and  
52 verification of ability to work with children as demonstrated by sixty contact hours in any one  
53 of the following areas as validated by the school principal: sixty contact hours in the  
54 classroom, of which at least forty-five must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute

55 teacher, with at least thirty consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty contact hours of  
56 teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a paraprofessional, for an  
57 initial four-year ABCTE certificate of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not be  
58 granted for the areas of early childhood education, or special education. For certification in  
59 the area of elementary education, ninety contact hours in the classroom shall be required, of  
60 which at least thirty shall be in an elementary classroom. Upon the completion of the  
61 **following** requirements [~~listed in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision~~], an  
62 applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional certificate under  
63 subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

90 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board policies and  
91 regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the professional development

92 requirements of this section and shall continue in effect until they expire, are revoked or  
93 suspended, as provided by law. When such certificates are required to be renewed, the state  
94 board or its designee shall grant to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly  
95 equivalent to the one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II,  
96 or continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of ~~[his or her]~~ **such person's**  
97 current certificate, be issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the classification  
98 system established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

99         3. (1) Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be based  
100 upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education which shall include  
101 completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133. The state board shall  
102 provide for the following levels of professional certification: an initial professional certificate  
103 and a career continuous professional certificate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 141 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;
- 142 b. Possesses a master's degree; or
- 143 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of  
144 education.

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

152 5. The state board shall, upon completion of a background check as prescribed in  
153 section 168.133, issue a professional certificate classification in the areas most closely  
154 aligned with an applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of  
155 teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a public school in  
156 this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state or certification  
157 under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, provided that the certificate holder shall  
158 annually complete the state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall  
159 establish policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed  
160 a fee for a certificate of license to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in  
161 an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of  
162 license to teach. The board shall promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a provisional  
163 certificate of license, which shall be valid for three years and shall allow the holder to assume  
164 classroom duties pending the completion of a criminal background check under section  
165 168.133, for any applicant who:

- 166 (1) Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces stationed in Missouri;  
167 (2) Relocated from another state within one year of the date of application;  
168 (3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to be issued a teaching  
169 certificate of license from another state; and  
170 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.
- 171 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to  
172 be deposited into the excellence in education [~~revolving~~] fund established pursuant to section  
173 160.268, for the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However, such fee  
174 shall not exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required  
175 as a condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be responsible  
176 for any fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but nothing  
177 in this section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy that permits fee  
178 reimbursement.
- 179 7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who entered  
180 covered employment with ten or more years of educational experience in another state or  
181 states and held a certificate issued by another state and subsequently worked in a school  
182 district covered by the public school retirement system of Missouri for ten or more years who  
183 later became certificated in Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to [~~his or her~~] **the**  
184 **member's** original date of employment in a Missouri public school.
- 185 8. Within thirty days of receiving an application from a spouse of an active duty  
186 member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to  
187 be transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been transferred or is scheduled to be  
188 transferred to an adjacent state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri, or has  
189 moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-of-station basis and has successfully  
190 completed the background check described under subsection 5 of this section and section  
191 168.133, the state board shall issue to such applicant a full certificate of license to teach,  
192 provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and has otherwise met all requirements  
193 to be issued such a certificate.

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