

ASSEMBLY, No. 5416

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Board of Education to authorize alternate route to expedite teacher certification of persons employed as paraprofessionals in school districts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification and supplementing chapter
2 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The State Board of Education shall authorize an alternate
8 route to expedite the teacher certification of persons who are
9 employed or have been employed by a school district as a
10 paraprofessional or an instructional assistant.

11 b. The Commissioner of Education shall develop
12 recommendations for the alternate route program authorized
13 pursuant to subsection a. of this section and shall submit the
14 recommendations to the State Board of Education. In developing
15 the recommendations, the commissioner shall consult with
16 representatives of the education community including, but not
17 limited to, the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey
18 School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and
19 Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School
20 Administrators, and the State Professional Learning Committee.

21 c. In addition to any other requirements established by the
22 State Board of Education, the alternate route program authorized
23 pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall include the following:

24 (1) a formula for applying a candidate's direct classroom service
25 to any student teaching requirements, provided that the candidate is
26 currently employed by a school district and is providing direct
27 classroom service, including tutoring. Under the formula, the direct
28 classroom service shall earn the candidate full credit, if appropriate;

29 (2) a requirement that the school district in which the candidate
30 is currently employed permit the candidate to perform any required
31 student teaching in the school district while, if possible, continuing
32 employment as a paraprofessional or an instructional assistant; and

33 (3) a formula to allow a grade point average waiver for
34 candidates who otherwise demonstrate qualification for the
35 expedited teacher certification.

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37 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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40 STATEMENT

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42 This bill requires the State Board of Education to authorize an
43 alternate route to expedite the teacher certification of persons who
44 are employed or have been employed by a school district as a
45 paraprofessional or an instructional assistant.

46 The Commissioner of Education is to develop recommendations
47 for the alternate route and those recommendations are required to be
48 submitted to the State board. In developing the recommendations,

1 the commissioner is to consult with representatives of the education
2 community, including the New Jersey Education Association, the
3 New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals
4 and Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School
5 Administrators, and the State Professional Learning Committee.

6 The bill provides that in addition to any other requirements
7 established by the State Board of Education, the alternate route
8 program is required to include:

9 (1) a formula for applying a candidate's direct classroom service
10 to any student teaching requirements, provided that the candidate is
11 currently employed by a school district and is providing direct
12 classroom service, including tutoring. Under the formula, the direct
13 classroom service shall earn the candidate full credit, if appropriate;

14 (2) a requirement that the school district in which the candidate
15 is currently employed permit the candidate to perform any required
16 student teaching in the school district while, if possible, continuing
17 employment as a paraprofessional or an instructional assistant; and

18 (3) a formula to allow a grade point average waiver for
19 candidates who otherwise demonstrate qualification for the
20 expedited teacher certification.