

[Third Reprint]

**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)**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

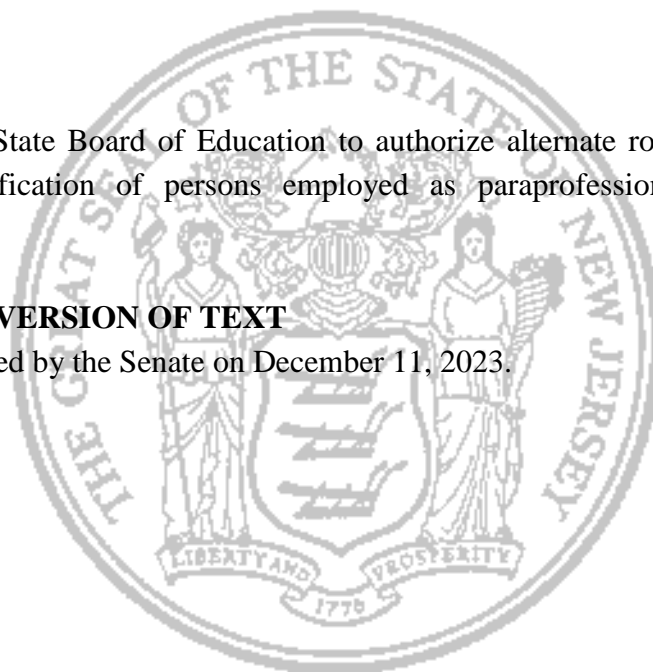
**Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Lopez, Jasey, Assemblyman Coughlin,  
Senators Diegnan, Stanfield, Gopal, Pou and Ruiz**

**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 amended by the Senate on December 11, 2023.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2023)**

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 employed  
9 or have been employed by a school district as a paraprofessional or an  
10 instructional assistant.

11 b. The Commissioner of Education shall develop  
12 recommendations for the alternate route program authorized pursuant  
13 to subsection a. of this section and shall submit the recommendations  
14 to the State Board of Education. In developing the recommendations,  
15 the commissioner shall consult with representatives of the education  
16 community including, but not limited to, the New Jersey Education  
17 Association, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New  
18 Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, the New Jersey  
19 Association of School Administrators, <sup>1</sup>the New Jersey Public Charter  
20 Schools Association, <sup>1</sup> <sup>3</sup>the American Federation of Teachers New  
21 Jersey, <sup>3</sup> and the State Professional Learning Committee.

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

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

30 (2) a requirement that the school district in which the candidate is  
31 currently employed <sup>2</sup>make every reasonable effort to <sup>2</sup> permit the  
32 candidate to perform any required student teaching in the school  
33 district while, if possible, continuing employment as a  
34 paraprofessional or an instructional assistant; and

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

38

39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[ thus ]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted May 11, 2023.

<sup>2</sup>Senate SED committee amendments adopted November 27, 2023.

<sup>3</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted December 11, 2023.