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

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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

b. The Commissioner of Education shall develop recommendations for the alternate route program authorized pursuant to subsection a. of this section and shall submit the recommendations to the State Board of Education. In developing the recommendations, the commissioner shall consult with representatives of the education community including, but not limited to, the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association, the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey, and the State Professional Learning Committee.

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

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

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

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

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:

1Assembly AED committee amendments adopted May 11, 2023.

2Senate SED committee amendments adopted November 27, 2023.

2Senate floor amendments adopted December 11, 2023.