

[Fourth Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5416

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2023

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District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

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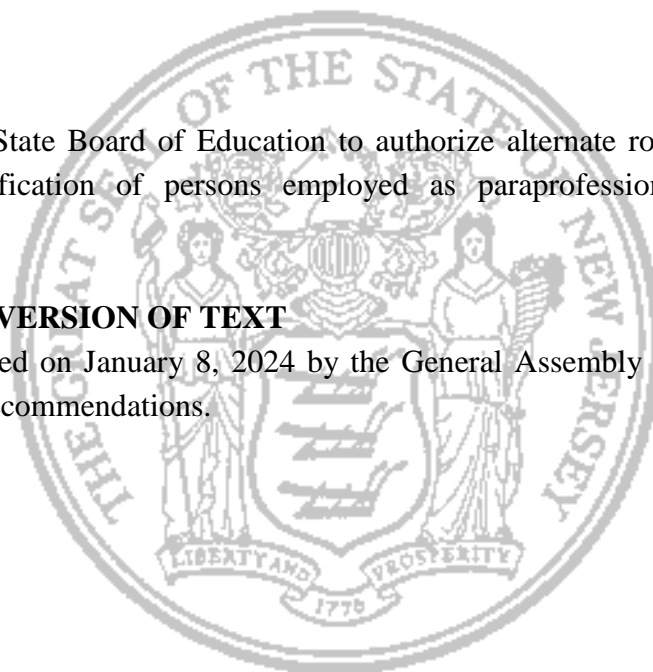
**Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Lopez, Jasey, Assemblyman Coughlin,
Senators Diegnan, Stanfield, Gopal, Pou and Ruiz**

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 on January 8, 2024 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.



(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 ⁴[an alternate
8 route] a paraprofessional educator pathway⁴ to expedite the teacher
9 certification of persons who are employed ⁴[or have been employed
10 by] to work in⁴ a school district as a paraprofessional or an
11 instructional assistant ⁴pursuing a certificate of eligibility with
12 advanced standing in a specific endorsement area⁴.

13 b. The Commissioner of Education shall develop
14 recommendations for the ⁴[alternate route program]
15 paraprofessional educator preparation pathway⁴ authorized pursuant
16 to subsection a. of this section and shall submit the
17 recommendations to the State Board of Education. In developing
18 the recommendations, the commissioner shall consult with
19 representatives of the education community including, but not
20 limited to, the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey
21 School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and
22 Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School
23 Administrators, ¹the New Jersey Public Charter Schools
24 Association,¹ ³the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey,³
25 ⁴the New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the
26 Association of Schools and Agencies for the Handicapped
27 (ASAH),⁴ and the State Professional Learning Committee.

28 c. In addition to any other requirements established by the State
29 Board of Education, the ⁴[alternate route program] pathway⁴
30 authorized pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall include the
31 following:

32 (1) ⁴[a formula for applying]⁴ a candidate's direct classroom
33 service ⁴[to any student teaching requirements] while employed in
34 a school district as a paraprofessional or instructional assistant,
35 which shall meet the clinical practice requirements for the
36 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing in the endorsement
37 area they are pursuing⁴, provided that the candidate is currently
38 employed ⁴[by] to work in⁴ a school district ⁴as a paraprofessional
39 or instructional assistant⁴ and is providing direct classroom service,
40 including tutoring ⁴, under the supervision of a mentor cooperating
41 teacher who is teaching in the endorsement area being sought by the

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.

³Senate floor amendments adopted December 11, 2023.

⁴Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations January 8, 2024.

1 paraprofessional⁴. Under ⁴**[the formula]** these conditions⁴, the
2 direct classroom service shall earn the candidate full credit, if
3 appropriate ⁴towards the clinical practice requirements found in
4 N.J.A.C. 6A:9A et seq.⁴;

5 (2) a requirement that the school district in which the candidate
6 is currently ⁴**[employed]** authorized to work as a paraprofessional
7 or instructional assistant⁴ ²make every reasonable effort to²
8 ⁴**[permit]** place⁴ the candidate ⁴**[to]** in a classroom setting in the
9 endorsement area the paraprofessional is seeking and with a
10 certified educator who meets the requirements for a cooperating
11 teacher at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.4, so the paraprofessional may⁴
12 perform any required student teaching in the school district while, if
13 possible, continuing employment as a paraprofessional or an
14 instructional assistant; and

15 (3) ⁴**[a formula to allow a grade point average waiver for**
16 candidates who otherwise demonstrate qualification for the
17 expedited teacher certification] allow educator preparation program
18 providers to submit for approval by the Department of Education,
19 preparation programs specifically for the paraprofessional educator
20 preparation pathway⁴.

21
22 2. ⁴**[This]** Section 1.b. of this⁴ act shall take effect
23 immediately. ⁴Sections 1.a. and 1.c. shall take effect upon the
24 promulgation of regulations by the State Board of Education,
25 pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410
26 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of these
27 sections.⁴