

ASSEMBLY, No. 5425

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywomen Carter and Reynolds-Jackson

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Board of Education to reduce clinical practice requirements for certain teacher candidates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/18/2023)

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

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

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7 1. a. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

9 "Certificate of eligibility with advanced standing" means a
10 certificate with lifetime validity issued by the State Board of
11 Examiners to candidates who meet degree, academic, and test
12 requirements for teacher certification and complete an educator
13 preparation program.

14 "Clinical practice" means a field-based experience or internship
15 in a kindergarten through grade 12 environment where a teacher
16 candidate demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and dispositions
17 necessary to be an effective educator.

18 b. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary,
19 the State Board of Education shall reduce the two semester and 175-
20 hour clinical practice requirements for a candidate for a certificate
21 of eligibility with advanced standing.

22 c. The Commissioner of Education shall develop
23 recommendations for reducing the clinical practice requirements
24 pursuant to subsection b. of this section and shall submit the
25 recommendations to the State Board of Education. In developing
26 the recommendations, the commissioner shall consult with
27 representatives of the education community including, but not
28 limited to, the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey
29 School Boards Association, the New Jersey Association of School
30 Administrators, and the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
31 Association.

32
33 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
34 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.

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37 STATEMENT

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39 This bill requires the State Board of Education to reduce certain
40 clinical practice requirements for a teacher candidate to be eligible
41 for a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing.

42 A "certificate of eligibility with advanced standing" is defined as
43 a certificate with lifetime validity issued by the State Board of
44 Examiners to candidates who meet degree, academic, and test
45 requirements for teacher certification and complete an educator
46 preparation program. The bill defines "clinical practice" as a field-
47 based experience or internship in a kindergarten through grade 12
48 environment where a teacher candidate demonstrates the

1 knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to be an effective
2 educator.

3 Under current State Board of Education regulations, a teacher
4 candidate seeking a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing
5 is required to complete clinical practice that (1) occurs during at
6 least two semesters; and (2) includes the completion of at least 175
7 hours prior to one full-time semester, of which at least 100 of the
8 175 hours are to be completed in the semester immediately
9 preceding the semester of full-time clinical practice.

10 This bill authorizes the State Board of Education to reduce
11 these clinical practice requirements. This bill requires the
12 Commissioner of Education to develop recommendations for
13 reducing the clinical practice requirements and those
14 recommendations are required to be submitted to the State board.
15 In developing the recommendations, the commissioner is required
16 to consult with representatives of the education community
17 including, but not limited to, the New Jersey Education Association,
18 the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey
19 Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey
20 Principals and Supervisors Association.

21 It is the intent of this bill to reduce the 175 hours of clinical
22 practice in order for a teacher candidate to fulfill the clinical
23 practice requirements in only one semester. Reducing the amount
24 of clinical practice hours will help eliminate the burden of a costly
25 and redundant second semester of clinical practice.