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 the issuance of an alternative certificate of eligibility with advanced standing to a teacher candidate who meets all other eligibility requirements for a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, except for the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge and all other alternative requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score on an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

b. The holder of an alternative certificate authorized pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be eligible to receive a standard certificate from the State Board of Education upon completion of four years of continuous employment as a teacher in a school district, charter school, renaissance school project, or an approved private school for students with disabilities, provided that the teacher completes all applicable requirements for the standard certificate.

2. a. The State Board of Education shall authorize the issuance of an alternative certificate of eligibility to a teacher candidate who meets all other eligibility requirements to receive a certificate of eligibility, except for the requirement to achieve a minimum score on a Commissioner of Education-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills and all other alternative basic skills requirements or exceptions; or the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge and all other alternative requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score on an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

b. The holder of an alternative certificate authorized pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be eligible to receive a standard certificate from the State Board of Education upon completion of four years of continuous employment as a teacher in a school district, charter school, renaissance school project,

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:
5Senate SED committee amendments adopted May 9, 2022.
6Senate floor amendments adopted June 16, 2022.
7Assembly AED committee amendments adopted February 9, 2023.
8Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted February 23, 2023.
or approved private school for students with disabilities, provided that the teacher completes all applicable requirements for the standard certificate.

4. A teaching staff member issued a certificate pursuant to section 1 of this act shall not be required to meet any additional qualifications towards the acquisition of tenure other than those specified by law for all candidates for tenure. Employment accrued using an alternative certificate of eligibility or an alternative certificate of eligibility with advanced standing shall be applied in the same manner towards eligibility for tenure as employment accrued using a certificate of eligibility or certificate of eligibility with advanced standing.

3. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). Within 30 days after the effective date of this act, and notwithstanding the provisions of the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to the contrary, the State Board of Education shall, immediately upon filing proper notice with the Office of Administrative Law, adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act. The rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall expire five years after the effective date of this act.

This act shall take effect immediately and the State Board of Education shall cease to authorize the issuance of alternative certificates five years after the effective date of this act.

Permits State Board of Education to authorize alternative teaching certificate.