

SENATE, No. 1553

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Permits State Board of Education to authorize alternative teaching certificates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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. The State Board of Education shall authorize the issuance
8 of an alternative certificate of eligibility with advanced standing to
9 a teacher candidate who meets all other eligibility requirements for
10 a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, except the
11 requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an appropriate
12 State test of subject matter knowledge and all other alternative
13 requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score on an
14 appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

15 b. The holder of an alternative certificate authorized pursuant to
16 subsection a. of this section shall be eligible to receive a standard
17 certificate from the State Board of Education upon completion of
18 four years of continuous employment as a teacher in the State's
19 public schools, provided that the teacher completes all applicable
20 requirements for the standard certificate.

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

33 b. The holder of an alternative certificate authorized pursuant to
34 subsection a. of this section shall be eligible to receive a standard
35 certificate from the State Board of Education upon completion of
36 four years of continuous employment as a teacher in the State's
37 public schools, provided that the teacher completes all applicable
38 requirements for the standard certificate.

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40 3. A teaching staff member issued a certificate pursuant to
41 section 1 or 2 of this act shall not be required to meet any additional
42 qualifications towards the acquisition of tenure other than those
43 specified by law for all candidates for tenure. Employment accrued
44 using an alternative certificate of eligibility or an alternative
45 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing shall be applied in
46 the same manner towards eligibility for tenure as employment
47 accrued using a certificate of eligibility or certificate of eligibility
48 with advanced standing.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

Under current State Board of Education regulations, a candidate applying to become a teacher may be issued a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS) under the traditional route to teacher certification or a certificate of eligibility (CE) under the alternate route to teacher certification. The CEAS and CE, issued by the State Board of Examiners, authorize an individual to seek and accept employment as a teacher in New Jersey public schools. This bill permits teacher candidates who meet all criteria for a CE or CEAS, other than the requirement to meet certain minimum testing thresholds in either Praxis Core or Praxis II Subject Tests, to receive an alternative certificate of eligibility or alternative certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, as applicable. Upon completion of four years of continuous employment using an alternative certificate or an alternative certificate with advanced standing, the teacher will be eligible to receive a standard certificate, provided that the teacher meets all applicable requirements for the standard certificate. The holder of an alternative certificate will be able to use time employed using the certificate towards tenure requirements.

This bill directs the State Board of Education to 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 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.

Under the bill, the holder of an alternative certificate of eligibility with advanced standing will 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 the State's public schools.

The bill also directs the State Board of Education to 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 the requirement to achieve a minimum score on a Commissioner of Education-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills and all other

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1 alternative basic skills requirements or exceptions; or the
2 requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an appropriate
3 State test of subject matter knowledge and all other alternative
4 requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score on an
5 appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

6 Under the bill, the holder of an alternative certificate of
7 eligibility will be eligible to receive a standard certificate from the
8 State Board of Education upon completion of four years of
9 continuous employment as a teacher in the State's public schools.

10 The bill further provides that a teaching staff member who
11 receives an alternative certificate pursuant to the bill's provisions
12 will be able to apply employment accrued while using the
13 alternative certificate towards tenure eligibility in the same manner
14 as a teaching staff member who holds a standard teaching
15 certificate. The bill prohibits the imposition of additional
16 qualifications towards the acquisition of tenure on holders of
17 alternative certificates.