

[Fourth Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1553

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman SADAF F. JAFFER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Spearman, Assemblywoman Matsikoudis, Assemblymen Umba, Atkins, Assemblywoman Lopez, Assemblyman Wimberly, Senators Diegnan and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Permits State Board of Education to authorize alternative teaching certificate.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on February 23, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/20/2023)

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 ⁴**[**1. a. The State Board of Education shall authorize the issuance
8 of an alternative certificate of eligibility with advanced standing to a
9 teacher candidate who meets all other eligibility requirements for a
10 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, except ¹for¹ 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 four
18 years of continuous employment as a teacher in ¹**[**the State's public
19 schools**]** a school district, charter school, renaissance school project,
20 or an approved private school for students with disabilities¹, provided
21 that the teacher completes all applicable requirements for the standard
22 certificate.⁴

23
24 ⁴**[**2. ¹1.⁴ a. The State Board of Education shall authorize the
25 issuance of an alternative certificate of eligibility to a teacher
26 candidate who meets all other eligibility requirements to receive a
27 certificate of eligibility, except ¹for¹ the requirement to achieve a
28 minimum score on a Commissioner of Education-approved test of
29 basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills and all other alternative
30 basic skills requirements or exceptions ⁴**[**; or the requirement to
31 achieve a minimum passing score on an appropriate State test of
32 subject matter knowledge and all other alternative requirements or
33 exceptions to achieving a passing score on an appropriate State test of
34 subject matter knowledge⁴**]**.

35 b. The holder of an alternative certificate authorized pursuant to
36 subsection a. of this section shall be eligible to receive a standard
37 certificate from the State Board of Education upon completion of four
38 years of continuous employment as a teacher in ¹**[**the State's public
39 schools**]** a school district, charter school, renaissance school project,
40 or approved private school for students with disabilities¹, provided that
41 the teacher completes all applicable requirements for the standard
42 certificate.

43
44 ⁴**[**3. ²2.⁴ A teaching staff member issued a certificate pursuant
45 to section 1 ⁴**[**or 2⁴**]** of this act shall not be required to meet any

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:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted May 9, 2022.

²Senate floor amendments adopted June 16, 2022.

³Assembly AED committee amendments adopted February 9, 2023.

⁴Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted February 23, 2023.

1 additional qualifications towards the acquisition of tenure other than
2 those specified by law for all candidates for tenure. Employment
3 accrued using an alternative certificate of eligibility ⁴[or an
4 alternative certificate of eligibility with advanced standing]⁴ shall
5 be applied in the same manner towards eligibility for tenure as
6 employment accrued using a certificate of eligibility ⁴[or certificate
7 of eligibility with advanced standing]⁴.

8
9 ⁴[4.] 3.⁴ ²[The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
10 regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
11 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.),] Within 30 days after the
12 effective date of this act, and notwithstanding the provisions of the
13 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
14 seq.) to the contrary, the State Board of Education shall,
15 immediately upon filing proper notice with the Office of
16 Administrative Law, adopt rules and regulations² necessary to
17 effectuate the provisions of this act. ³[²The rules and regulations
18 adopted pursuant to this section shall expire five years after the
19 effective date of this act.²]³

20
21 ⁴[5.] 4.⁴ This act shall take effect immediately ³[²and the State
22 Board of Education shall cease to authorize the issuance of
23 alternative certificates five years after the effective date of this
24 act.²]³