

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3172

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman MICHELE MATSIKOUDIS

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

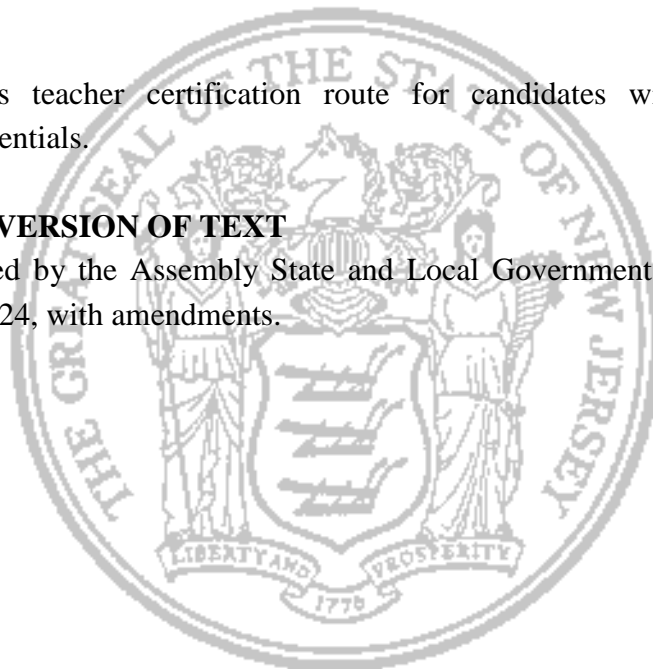
Assemblyman Sauickie, Assemblywomen Swain and Mosquera

SYNOPSIS

Establishes teacher certification route for candidates with Montessori teaching credentials.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on January 4, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/8/2024)

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. As used in this section¹ **[,]**¹

8 "Certificate of eligibility" means a certificate with lifetime
9 validity issued by the State Board of Examiners to candidates who
10 meet degree, academic, and applicable test requirements for teacher
11 certification.

12 ¹"Provisional certificate" means a certificate issued by the State
13 Board of Examiners to candidates who hold either a certificate of
14 eligibility or a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing and
15 are employed as part of a State²-²approved district training program
16 or residency leading to standard certification.

17 "Standard instructional certificate" means a permanent certificate
18 issued to a person who has met all teacher certification
19 requirements.¹

20 b. The State Board of Education shall authorize a route to
21 teacher certification for candidates ¹seeking a certificate of
22 eligibility with a preschool through grade three endorsement or an
23 elementary school (kindergarten through ²grade² six) endorsement¹
24 who possess a Montessori teaching credential. To be eligible for
25 this route to teacher certification, a candidate shall:

26 (1) hold a Montessori teaching credential issued by the American
27 Montessori Society, the Association Montessori Internationale, or
28 an institution accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council
29 for Teacher Education;

30 (2) hold a bachelor's degree in any field from an accredited
31 institution of higher education; and

32 (3) meet the applicable test requirements for a certificate of
33 eligibility.

34 ¹In order to obtain a provisional or standard instructional
35 certificate, a candidate seeking a certificate of eligibility with a
36 preschool through grade three endorsement or an elementary school
37 (kindergarten through grade six) endorsement who meets the
38 criteria established pursuant to this section shall not be required to
39 complete:

40 (1) 50 hours of pre-professional experience or credits of
41 preschool through grade three pedagogy at a Department of
42 Education-approved institution of higher education;

43 (2) 350 hours of credits or coursework after employment; or

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 floor amendments adopted June 20, 2023.

²Assembly ASL committee amendments adopted January 4, 2024.

1 (3) 24 credits after employment.¹

2 c. The State Board of Examiners shall issue a certificate of
3 eligibility to a candidate who meets the criteria established pursuant
4 to this section. A candidate eligible for a certificate of eligibility
5 pursuant to this ¹~~act~~ section¹ shall not be required to complete a
6 State¹₋₁ approved educator preparation program¹, but shall be
7 required to complete a Montessori teacher preparation program that:

8 (1) is affiliated with the American Montessori Society, the
9 Association Montessori Internationale, or is accredited by the
10 Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education; and

11 (2) requires a minimum of 200 academic hours and 400
12 practicum hours¹.

13 d. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations
14 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
15 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of this
16 section.

17

18 ²2. The Department of Education shall conduct a study on the
19 route to teacher certification for candidates with a Montessori
20 teaching credential established pursuant to subsection b. of section
21 1 of this act. In conducting the study, the department shall collect,
22 at a minimum information on the:

23 a. number of candidates with a Montessori teaching credential
24 issued a certification through the route; and

25 b. Montessori program the candidate completed in order to be
26 eligible for the certification route.²

27

28 ²3. A board of education shall report annually to the
29 Commissioner of Education, for a period of five years after the
30 effective date of this act, or as long as the commissioner deems
31 necessary, the number of teachers hired by the board who possess a
32 Montessori teaching credential and a certificate of eligibility with a
33 preschool through grade three endorsement or an elementary school
34 (kindergarten through grade six) endorsement established pursuant
35 to subsection b. of section 1 of this act.²

36

37 ²[2.] 4.² This act shall take effect immediately.