

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 21B-20 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-20)

7 Sec. 21B-20. Types of licenses. Before July 1, 2013, the  
8 State Board of Education shall implement a system of educator  
9 licensure, whereby individuals employed in school districts  
10 who are required to be licensed must have one of the following  
11 licenses: (i) a professional educator license; (ii) a  
12 professional educator license with stipulations; or (iii) a  
13 substitute teaching license. References in law regarding  
14 individuals certified or certificated or required to be  
15 certified or certificated under Article 21 of this Code shall  
16 also include individuals licensed or required to be licensed  
17 under this Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June  
18 30 following one full year of the license being issued.

19 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
20 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
21 rules as may be necessary to govern the requirements for  
22 licenses and endorsements under this Section.

23 (1) Professional Educator License. Persons who (i)

1 have successfully completed an approved educator  
2 preparation program and are recommended for licensure by  
3 the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation  
4 program, (ii) have successfully completed the required  
5 testing under Section 21B-30 of this Code, (iii) have  
6 successfully completed coursework on the psychology of,  
7 the identification of, and the methods of instruction for  
8 the exceptional child, including without limitation  
9 children with learning disabilities, (iv) have  
10 successfully completed coursework in methods of reading  
11 and reading in the content area, and (v) have met all other  
12 criteria established by rule of the State Board of  
13 Education shall be issued a Professional Educator License.  
14 All Professional Educator Licenses are valid until June 30  
15 immediately following 5 years of the license being issued.  
16 The Professional Educator License shall be endorsed with  
17 specific areas and grade levels in which the individual is  
18 eligible to practice.

19 Individuals can receive subsequent endorsements on the  
20 Professional Educator License. Subsequent endorsements  
21 shall require a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework  
22 in the endorsement area, unless otherwise specified by  
23 rule, and passage of the applicable content area test.

24 (2) Educator License with Stipulations. An Educator  
25 License with Stipulations shall be issued an endorsement  
26 that limits the license holder to one particular position

1 or does not require completion of an approved educator  
2 program or both.

3 An individual with an Educator License with  
4 Stipulations must not be employed by a school district or  
5 any other entity to replace any presently employed teacher  
6 who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason.

7 An Educator License with Stipulations may be issued  
8 with the following endorsements:

9 (A) Provisional educator. A provisional educator  
10 endorsement in a specific content area or areas on an  
11 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
12 applicant who holds an educator license from another  
13 state, U.S. territory, or foreign country and who, at  
14 the time of applying for an Illinois license, does not  
15 meet the minimum requirements under Section 21B-35 of  
16 this Code, but does, at a minimum, meet the following  
17 requirements:

18 (i) Holds the equivalent of a minimum of a  
19 bachelor's degree, unless a master's degree is  
20 required for the endorsement, from a regionally  
21 accredited college or university or, for  
22 individuals educated in a country other than the  
23 United States, the equivalent of a minimum of a  
24 bachelor's degree issued in the United States,  
25 unless a master's degree is required for the  
26 endorsement.

1           (ii) Has passed or passes a test of basic  
2           skills and content area test prior to or within one  
3           year after issuance of the provisional educator  
4           endorsement on the Educator License with  
5           Stipulations. If an individual who holds an  
6           Educator License with Stipulations endorsed for  
7           provisional educator has not passed a test of basic  
8           skills and applicable content area test or tests  
9           within one year after issuance of the endorsement,  
10          the endorsement shall expire on June 30 following  
11          one full year of the endorsement being issued. If  
12          such an individual has passed the test of basic  
13          skills and applicable content area test or tests  
14          either prior to issuance of the endorsement or  
15          within one year after issuance of the endorsement,  
16          the endorsement is valid until June 30 immediately  
17          following 2 years of the license being issued,  
18          during which time any and all coursework  
19          deficiencies must be met and any and all additional  
20          testing deficiencies must be met.

21          In addition, a provisional educator endorsement  
22          for principals or superintendents may be issued if the  
23          individual meets the requirements set forth in  
24          subdivisions (1) and (3) of subsection (b-5) of Section  
25          21B-35 of this Code. Applicants who have not been  
26          entitled by an Illinois-approved educator preparation

1 program at an Illinois institution of higher education  
2 shall not receive a provisional educator endorsement  
3 if the person completed an alternative licensure  
4 program in another state, unless the program has been  
5 determined to be equivalent to Illinois program  
6 requirements.

7 Notwithstanding any other requirements of this  
8 Section, a service member or spouse of a service member  
9 may obtain a Professional Educator License with  
10 Stipulations, and a provisional educator endorsement  
11 in a specific content area or areas, if he or she holds  
12 a valid teaching certificate or license in good  
13 standing from another state, meets the qualifications  
14 of educators outlined in Section 21B-15 of this Code,  
15 and has not engaged in any misconduct that would  
16 prohibit an individual from obtaining a license  
17 pursuant to Illinois law, including without limitation  
18 any administrative rules of the State Board of  
19 Education.

20 In this Section, "service member" means any person  
21 who, at the time of application under this Section, is  
22 an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces  
23 or any reserve component of the United States Armed  
24 Forces or the National Guard of any state,  
25 commonwealth, or territory of the United States or the  
26 District of Columbia.

1           A provisional educator endorsement is valid until  
2           June 30 immediately following 2 years of the license  
3           being issued, provided that any remaining testing and  
4           coursework deficiencies are met as set forth in this  
5           Section. Failure to satisfy all stated deficiencies  
6           shall mean the individual, including any service  
7           member or spouse who has obtained a Professional  
8           Educator License with Stipulations and a provisional  
9           educator endorsement in a specific content area or  
10          areas, is ineligible to receive a Professional  
11          Educator License at that time. An Educator License with  
12          Stipulations endorsed for provisional educator shall  
13          not be renewed for individuals who hold an Educator  
14          License with Stipulations and who have held a position  
15          in a public school or non-public school recognized by  
16          the State Board of Education.

17           (B)    Alternative provisional educator.    An  
18           alternative provisional educator endorsement on an  
19           Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
20           applicant who, at the time of applying for the  
21           endorsement, has done all of the following:

22                   (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
23                   college or university with a minimum of a  
24                   bachelor's degree.

25                   (ii) Successfully completed the first phase of  
26                   the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for

1 Teachers, as described in Section 21B-50 of this  
2 Code.

3 (iii) Passed a test of basic skills and content  
4 area test, as required under Section 21B-30 of this  
5 Code.

6 The alternative provisional educator endorsement  
7 is valid for 2 years of teaching and may be renewed for  
8 a third year by an individual meeting the requirements  
9 set forth in Section 21B-50 of this Code.

10 (C) Alternative provisional superintendent. An  
11 alternative provisional superintendent endorsement on  
12 an Educator License with Stipulations entitles the  
13 holder to serve only as a superintendent or assistant  
14 superintendent in a school district's central office.  
15 This endorsement may only be issued to an applicant  
16 who, at the time of applying for the endorsement, has  
17 done all of the following:

18 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
19 college or university with a minimum of a master's  
20 degree in a management field other than education.

21 (ii) Been employed for a period of at least 5  
22 years in a management level position in a field  
23 other than education.

24 (iii) Successfully completed the first phase  
25 of an alternative route to superintendent  
26 endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55

1 of this Code.

2 (iv) Passed a test of basic skills and content  
3 area tests required under Section 21B-30 of this  
4 Code.

5 The endorsement may be registered for 2 fiscal  
6 years in order to complete one full year of serving as  
7 a superintendent or assistant superintendent.

8 (D) Resident teacher endorsement. A resident  
9 teacher endorsement on an Educator License with  
10 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who, at the  
11 time of applying for the endorsement, has done all of  
12 the following:

13 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
14 institution of higher education with a minimum of a  
15 bachelor's degree.

16 (ii) Enrolled in an approved Illinois educator  
17 preparation program.

18 (iii) Passed a test of basic skills and content  
19 area test, as required under Section 21B-30 of this  
20 Code.

21 The resident teacher endorsement on an Educator  
22 License with Stipulations is valid for 4 years of  
23 teaching and shall not be renewed.

24 A resident teacher may teach only under the  
25 direction of a licensed teacher, who shall act as the  
26 resident mentor teacher, and may not teach in place of



1 a licensed teacher. A resident teacher endorsement on  
2 an Educator License with Stipulations shall no longer  
3 be valid after June 30, 2017.

4 (E) Career and technical educator. A career and  
5 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
6 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who has  
7 a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework from a  
8 regionally accredited institution of higher education  
9 or an accredited trade and technical institution and  
10 has a minimum of 2,000 hours of experience outside of  
11 education in each area to be taught.

12 The career and technical educator endorsement on  
13 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
14 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
15 endorsement being issued and may be renewed. For  
16 individuals who were issued the career and technical  
17 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
18 Stipulations on or after January 1, 2015, the license  
19 may be renewed if the individual passes a test of basic  
20 skills or test of work proficiency, as required under  
21 Section 21B-30 of this Code.

22 (F) Part-time provisional career and technical  
23 educator or provisional career and technical educator.  
24 A part-time provisional career and technical educator  
25 endorsement or a provisional career and technical  
26 educator endorsement on an Educator License with

1 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who has a  
2 minimum of 8,000 hours of work experience in the skill  
3 for which the applicant is seeking the endorsement. It  
4 is the responsibility of each employing school board  
5 and regional office of education to provide  
6 verification, in writing, to the State Superintendent  
7 of Education at the time the application is submitted  
8 that no qualified teacher holding a Professional  
9 Educator License or an Educator License with  
10 Stipulations with a career and technical educator  
11 endorsement is available and that actual circumstances  
12 require such issuance.

13 The provisional career and technical educator  
14 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
15 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of  
16 the endorsement being issued and may be renewed ~~only~~  
17 ~~one-time~~ for 5 years. For individuals who were issued  
18 the provisional career and technical educator  
19 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
20 on or after January 1, 2015, the license may be renewed  
21 ~~one-time~~ if the individual passes a test of basic  
22 skills or test of work proficiency, as required under  
23 Section 21B-30 of this Code, ~~and has completed a~~  
24 ~~minimum of 20 semester hours from a regionally~~  
25 ~~accredited institution.~~

26 A part-time provisional career and technical

1 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
2 Stipulations may be issued for teaching no more than 2  
3 courses of study for grades 6 through 12. The part-time  
4 provisional career and technical educator endorsement  
5 on an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
6 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
7 endorsement being issued and may be renewed for 5 years  
8 if the individual makes application for renewal.

9 (G) Transitional bilingual educator. A  
10 transitional bilingual educator endorsement on an  
11 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued for  
12 the purpose of providing instruction in accordance  
13 with Article 14C of this Code to an applicant who  
14 provides satisfactory evidence that he or she meets all  
15 of the following requirements:

16 (i) Possesses adequate speaking, reading, and  
17 writing ability in the language other than English  
18 in which transitional bilingual education is  
19 offered.

20 (ii) Has the ability to successfully  
21 communicate in English.

22 (iii) Either possessed, within 5 years  
23 previous to his or her applying for a transitional  
24 bilingual educator endorsement, a valid and  
25 comparable teaching certificate or comparable  
26 authorization issued by a foreign country or holds

1 a degree from an institution of higher learning in  
2 a foreign country that the State Educator  
3 Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be  
4 the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a  
5 regionally accredited institution of higher  
6 learning in the United States.

7 A transitional bilingual educator endorsement  
8 shall be valid for prekindergarten through grade 12, is  
9 valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of  
10 the endorsement being issued, and shall not be renewed.

11 Persons holding a transitional bilingual educator  
12 endorsement shall not be employed to replace any  
13 presently employed teacher who otherwise would not be  
14 replaced for any reason.

15 (H) Language endorsement. In an effort to  
16 alleviate the shortage of teachers speaking a language  
17 other than English in the public schools, an individual  
18 who holds an Educator License with Stipulations may  
19 also apply for a language endorsement, provided that  
20 the applicant provides satisfactory evidence that he  
21 or she meets all of the following requirements:

22 (i) Holds a transitional bilingual  
23 endorsement.

24 (ii) Has demonstrated proficiency in the  
25 language for which the endorsement is to be issued  
26 by passing the applicable language content test

1 required by the State Board of Education.

2 (iii) Holds a bachelor's degree or higher from  
3 a regionally accredited institution of higher  
4 education or, for individuals educated in a  
5 country other than the United States, holds a  
6 degree from an institution of higher learning in a  
7 foreign country that the State Educator  
8 Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be  
9 the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a  
10 regionally accredited institution of higher  
11 learning in the United States.

12 (iv) Has passed a test of basic skills, as  
13 required under Section 21B-30 of this Code.

14 A language endorsement on an Educator License with  
15 Stipulations is valid for prekindergarten through  
16 grade 12 for the same validity period as the  
17 individual's transitional bilingual educator  
18 endorsement on the Educator License with Stipulations  
19 and shall not be renewed.

20 (I) Visiting international educator. A visiting  
21 international educator endorsement on an Educator  
22 License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
23 individual who is being recruited by a particular  
24 school district that conducts formal recruitment  
25 programs outside of the United States to secure the  
26 services of qualified teachers and who meets all of the

1 following requirements:

2 (i) Holds the equivalent of a minimum of a  
3 bachelor's degree issued in the United States.

4 (ii) Has been prepared as a teacher at the  
5 grade level for which he or she will be employed.

6 (iii) Has adequate content knowledge in the  
7 subject to be taught.

8 (iv) Has an adequate command of the English  
9 language.

10 A holder of a visiting international educator  
11 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
12 shall be permitted to teach in bilingual education  
13 programs in the language that was the medium of  
14 instruction in his or her teacher preparation program,  
15 provided that he or she passes the English Language  
16 Proficiency Examination or another test of writing  
17 skills in English identified by the State Board of  
18 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
19 Preparation and Licensure Board.

20 A visiting international educator endorsement on  
21 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 3  
22 years and shall not be renewed.

23 (J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional  
24 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
25 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who holds a  
26 high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and

1           either holds an associate's degree or a minimum of 60  
2           semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited  
3           institution of higher education or has passed a test of  
4           basic skills required under Section 21B-30 of this  
5           Code. The paraprofessional educator endorsement is  
6           valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of  
7           the endorsement being issued and may be renewed through  
8           application and payment of the appropriate fee, as  
9           required under Section 21B-40 of this Code. An  
10          individual who holds only a paraprofessional educator  
11          endorsement is not subject to additional requirements  
12          in order to renew the endorsement.

13                 (K) Chief school business official. A chief school  
14          business official endorsement on an Educator License  
15          with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
16          qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2  
17          years of full-time administrative experience in school  
18          business management or 2 years of university-approved  
19          practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester  
20          hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the  
21          State Board of Education for the preparation of school  
22          business administrators and by passage of the  
23          applicable State tests, including a test of basic  
24          skills and applicable content area test.

25                 The chief school business official endorsement may  
26          also be affixed to the Educator License with

1 Stipulations of any holder who qualifies by having a  
2 master's degree in business administration, finance,  
3 or accounting and who completes an additional 6  
4 semester hours of internship in school business  
5 management from a regionally accredited institution of  
6 higher education and passes the applicable State  
7 tests, including a test of basic skills and applicable  
8 content area test. This endorsement shall be required  
9 for any individual employed as a chief school business  
10 official.

11 The chief school business official endorsement on  
12 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
13 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
14 endorsement being issued and may be renewed if the  
15 license holder completes renewal requirements as  
16 required for individuals who hold a Professional  
17 Educator License endorsed for chief school business  
18 official under Section 21B-45 of this Code and such  
19 rules as may be adopted by the State Board of  
20 Education.

21 (L) Provisional in-state educator. A provisional  
22 in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License  
23 with Stipulations may be issued to a candidate who has  
24 completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation  
25 program at an Illinois institution of higher education  
26 and who has not successfully completed an



1 evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness but  
2 who meets all of the following requirements:

3 (i) Holds at least a bachelor's degree.

4 (ii) Has completed an approved educator  
5 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

6 (iii) Has passed a test of basic skills and  
7 applicable content area test, as required by  
8 Section 21B-30 of this Code.

9 (iv) Has attempted an evidence-based  
10 assessment of teacher effectiveness and received a  
11 minimum score on that assessment, as established  
12 by the State Board of Education in consultation  
13 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
14 Board.

15 A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an  
16 Educator License with Stipulations is valid for one  
17 full fiscal year after the date of issuance and may not  
18 be renewed.

19 (3) Substitute Teaching License. A Substitute Teaching  
20 License may be issued to qualified applicants for  
21 substitute teaching in all grades of the public schools,  
22 prekindergarten through grade 12. Substitute Teaching  
23 Licenses are not eligible for endorsements. Applicants for  
24 a Substitute Teaching License must hold a bachelor's degree  
25 or higher from a regionally accredited institution of  
26 higher education.

1           Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

2           Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for substitute  
3           teaching in every county of this State. If an individual  
4           has had his or her Professional Educator License or  
5           Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked or  
6           has not met the renewal requirements for licensure, then  
7           that individual is not eligible to obtain a Substitute  
8           Teaching License.

9           A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a  
10          licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing  
11          board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under  
12          contract because of an emergency situation, then a district  
13          may employ a substitute teacher for no longer than 30  
14          calendar days per each vacant position in the district if  
15          the district notifies the appropriate regional office of  
16          education within 5 business days after the employment of  
17          the substitute teacher in the emergency situation. An  
18          emergency situation is one in which an unforeseen vacancy  
19          has occurred and (i) a teacher is unable to fulfill his or  
20          her contractual duties or (ii) teacher capacity needs of  
21          the district exceed previous indications, and the district  
22          is actively engaged in advertising to hire a fully licensed  
23          teacher for the vacant position.

24          There is no limit on the number of days that a  
25          substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,  
26          provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer

1 than 90 school days for any one licensed teacher under  
2 contract in the same school year. A substitute teacher who  
3 holds a Professional Educator License or Educator License  
4 with Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school  
5 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the  
6 same school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on  
7 the number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do  
8 not apply to any school district operating under Article 34  
9 of this Code.

10 (Source: P.A. 98-28, eff. 7-1-13; 98-751, eff. 1-1-15; 99-35,  
11 eff. 1-1-16; 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-143, eff. 7-27-15; 99-642,  
12 eff. 7-28-16; 99-920, eff. 1-6-17.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
14 2017.