

**SB2503**



**101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2019 and 2020**

**SB2503**

Introduced 1/28/2020, by Sen. Dale A. Righter

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

105 ILCS 5/21B-30  
105 ILCS 5/21B-50

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Removes the requirement that educator licensure candidates pass a teacher performance assessment. Makes related changes.

LRB101 16504 NHT 65885 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

**A BILL FOR**

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 Sections  
5 21B-30 and 21B-50 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

7 Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

8 (a) (Blank).

9 (b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
10 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall design  
11 and implement a system of examinations, which shall be required  
12 prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These examinations  
13 and indicators must be based on national and State professional  
14 teaching standards, as determined by the State Board of  
15 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
16 and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education may adopt  
17 such rules as may be necessary to implement and administer this  
18 Section.

19 (c) (Blank).

20 (c-5) The State Board must adopt rules to implement a  
21 paraprofessional competency test. This test would allow an  
22 applicant seeking an Educator License with Stipulations with a  
23 paraprofessional educator endorsement to obtain the

1 endorsement if he or she passes the test and meets the other  
2 requirements of subparagraph (J) of paragraph (2) of Section  
3 21B-20 other than the higher education requirements.

4 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be  
5 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area  
6 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There  
7 shall be no exception to this requirement. No candidate shall  
8 be allowed to student teach or serve as the teacher of record  
9 until he or she has passed the applicable content area test.

10 (e) (Blank).

11 (f) (Blank). ~~Except as otherwise provided in this Article,~~  
12 ~~beginning on September 1, 2015, all candidates completing~~  
13 ~~teacher preparation programs in this State and all candidates~~  
14 ~~subject to Section 21B-35 of this Code are required to pass a~~  
15 ~~teacher performance assessment approved by the State Board of~~  
16 ~~Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation~~  
17 ~~and Licensure Board. Subject to appropriation, an individual~~  
18 ~~who holds a Professional Educator License and is employed for a~~  
19 ~~minimum of one school year by a school district designated as~~  
20 ~~Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 may, after application to the~~  
21 ~~State Board, receive from the State Board a refund for any~~  
22 ~~costs associated with completing the teacher performance~~  
23 ~~assessment under this subsection.~~

24 (g) The content area knowledge test ~~and the teacher~~  
25 ~~performance assessment~~ shall be the test ~~tests that from time~~  
26 ~~to time~~ are designated by the State Board of Education, in

1 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
2 Board, and may include a test ~~be tests~~ prepared by an  
3 educational testing organization or a test ~~tests~~ designed by  
4 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
5 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. The test of content  
6 area knowledge shall assess content knowledge in a specific  
7 subject field. The test ~~tests~~ must be designed to be racially  
8 neutral to ensure that no person taking the test ~~tests~~ is  
9 discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national  
10 origin, or other factors unrelated to the person's ability to  
11 perform as a licensed employee. The score required to pass the  
12 test ~~tests~~ shall be fixed by the State Board of Education, in  
13 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
14 Board. The test ~~tests~~ shall be administered not fewer than 3  
15 times a year at such time and place as may be designated by the  
16 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
17 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

18 The State Board shall implement a test or tests to assess  
19 the speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills of  
20 applicants for an endorsement or a license issued under  
21 subdivision (G) of paragraph (2) of Section 21B-20 of this Code  
22 in the English language and in the language of the transitional  
23 bilingual education program requested by the applicant.

24 (h) Except as provided in Section 34-6 of this Code, the  
25 provisions of this Section shall apply equally in any school  
26 district subject to Article 34 of this Code.

1 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the  
2 testing requirements under this Section shall include without  
3 limitation provisions governing test selection, test  
4 validation and determination of a passing score,  
5 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,  
6 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the  
7 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special  
8 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop such  
9 rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to year  
10 in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.

11 (Source: P.A. 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18;  
12 100-932, eff. 8-17-18; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-220, eff.  
13 8-7-19; 101-594, eff. 12-5-19.)

14 (105 ILCS 5/21B-50)

15 Sec. 21B-50. Alternative Educator Licensure Program.

16 (a) There is established an alternative educator licensure  
17 program, to be known as the Alternative Educator Licensure  
18 Program for Teachers.

19 (b) The Alternative Educator Licensure Program for  
20 Teachers may be offered by a recognized institution approved to  
21 offer educator preparation programs by the State Board of  
22 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
23 and Licensure Board.

24 The program shall be comprised of 4 phases:

25 (1) A course of study that at a minimum includes

1 instructional planning; instructional strategies,  
2 including special education, reading, and English language  
3 learning; classroom management; and the assessment of  
4 students and use of data to drive instruction.

5 (2) A year of residency, which is a candidate's  
6 assignment to a full-time teaching position or as a  
7 co-teacher for one full school year. An individual must  
8 hold an Educator License with Stipulations with an  
9 alternative provisional educator endorsement in order to  
10 enter the residency and must complete additional program  
11 requirements that address required State and national  
12 standards, ~~pass the State Board's teacher performance~~  
13 ~~assessment before entering the second residency year, as~~  
14 ~~required under phase (3) of this subsection (b),~~ and be  
15 recommended by the principal or qualified equivalent of a  
16 principal, as required under subsection (d) of this  
17 Section, and the program coordinator to continue with the  
18 second year of the residency.

19 (3) A second year of residency, which shall include the  
20 candidate's assignment to a full-time teaching position  
21 for one school year. The candidate must be assigned an  
22 experienced teacher to act as a mentor and coach the  
23 candidate through the second year of residency.

24 (4) A comprehensive assessment of the candidate's  
25 teaching effectiveness, as evaluated by the principal or  
26 qualified equivalent of a principal, as required under

1 subsection (d) of this Section, and the program  
2 coordinator, at the end of the second year of residency. If  
3 there is disagreement between the 2 evaluators about the  
4 candidate's teaching effectiveness, the candidate may  
5 complete one additional year of residency teaching under a  
6 professional development plan developed by the principal  
7 or qualified equivalent and the preparation program. At the  
8 completion of the third year, a candidate must have  
9 positive evaluations and a recommendation for full  
10 licensure from both the principal or qualified equivalent  
11 and the program coordinator or no Professional Educator  
12 License shall be issued.

13 Successful completion of the program shall be deemed to  
14 satisfy any other practice or student teaching and content  
15 matter requirements established by law.

16 (c) An alternative provisional educator endorsement on an  
17 Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 2 years of  
18 teaching in the public schools, including without limitation a  
19 preschool educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code  
20 or charter school, or in a State-recognized nonpublic school in  
21 which the chief administrator is required to have the licensure  
22 necessary to be a principal in a public school in this State  
23 and in which a majority of the teachers are required to have  
24 the licensure necessary to be instructors in a public school in  
25 this State, but may be renewed for a third year if needed to  
26 complete the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for

1 Teachers. The endorsement shall be issued only once to an  
2 individual who meets all of the following requirements:

3 (1) Has graduated from a regionally accredited college  
4 or university with a bachelor's degree or higher.

5 (2) Has a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or  
6 greater on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent on another scale.

7 (3) Has completed a major in the content area if  
8 seeking a middle or secondary level endorsement or, if  
9 seeking an early childhood, elementary, or special  
10 education endorsement, has completed a major in the content  
11 area of reading, English/language arts, mathematics, or  
12 one of the sciences. If the individual does not have a  
13 major in a content area for any level of teaching, he or  
14 she must submit transcripts to the State Board of Education  
15 to be reviewed for equivalency.

16 (4) Has successfully completed phase (1) of subsection  
17 (b) of this Section.

18 (5) Has passed a content area test required for the  
19 specific endorsement for admission into the program, as  
20 required under Section 21B-30 of this Code.

21 A candidate possessing the alternative provisional  
22 educator endorsement may receive a salary, benefits, and any  
23 other terms of employment offered to teachers in the school who  
24 are members of an exclusive bargaining representative, if any,  
25 but a school is not required to provide these benefits during  
26 the years of residency if the candidate is serving only as a



1 co-teacher. If the candidate is serving as the teacher of  
2 record, the candidate must receive a salary, benefits, and any  
3 other terms of employment. Residency experiences must not be  
4 counted towards tenure.

5 (d) The recognized institution offering the Alternative  
6 Educator Licensure Program for Teachers must partner with a  
7 school district, including without limitation a preschool  
8 educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code or  
9 charter school, or a State-recognized, nonpublic school in this  
10 State in which the chief administrator is required to have the  
11 licensure necessary to be a principal in a public school in  
12 this State and in which a majority of the teachers are required  
13 to have the licensure necessary to be instructors in a public  
14 school in this State. A recognized institution that partners  
15 with a public school district administering a preschool  
16 educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code must  
17 require a principal to recommend or evaluate candidates in the  
18 program. A recognized institution that partners with an  
19 eligible entity administering a preschool educational program  
20 under Section 2-3.71 of this Code and that is not a public  
21 school district must require a principal or qualified  
22 equivalent of a principal to recommend or evaluate candidates  
23 in the program. The program presented for approval by the State  
24 Board of Education must demonstrate the supports that are to be  
25 provided to assist the provisional teacher during the 2-year  
26 residency period. These supports must provide additional

1 contact hours with mentors during the first year of residency.

2 (e) Upon completion of the 4 phases outlined in subsection  
3 (b) of this Section and all assessments required under Section  
4 21B-30 of this Code, an individual shall receive a Professional  
5 Educator License.

6 (f) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
7 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
8 rules as may be necessary to establish and implement the  
9 Alternative Educator Licensure Program for Teachers.

10 (Source: P.A. 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-822, eff. 1-1-19;  
11 101-220, eff. 8-7-19; 101-570, eff. 8-23-19; revised 9-19-19.)