

HB0655



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB0655

Introduced 2/8/2021, by Rep. Thomas M. Bennett and Chris Miller

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. Effective July 1, 2021.

LRB102 04292 CMG 14310 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
12 required prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These
13 examinations and indicators must be based on national and
14 State professional teaching standards, as determined by the
15 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
16 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. The State Board of
17 Education may adopt such rules as may be necessary to
18 implement and administer this 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~~
19 ~~a 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
22 Code in the English language and in the language of the
23 transitional bilingual education program requested by the
24 applicant.

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

1 district subject to Article 34 of this Code.

2 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the
3 testing requirements under this Section shall include without
4 limitation provisions governing test selection, test
5 validation and determination of a passing score,
6 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,
7 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the
8 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special
9 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop
10 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to
11 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.
12 (Source: P.A. 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18;
13 100-932, eff. 8-17-18; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-220, eff.
14 8-7-19; 101-594, eff. 12-5-19.)

15 (105 ILCS 5/21B-50)

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

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

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

25 The program shall be comprised of 4 phases:

1 (1) A course of study that at a minimum includes
2 instructional planning; instructional strategies,
3 including special education, reading, and English language
4 learning; classroom management; and the assessment of
5 students and use of data to drive instruction.

6 (2) A year of residency, which is a candidate's
7 assignment to a full-time teaching position or as a
8 co-teacher for one full school year. An individual must
9 hold an Educator License with Stipulations with an
10 alternative provisional educator endorsement in order to
11 enter the residency and must complete additional program
12 requirements that address required State and national
13 standards, ~~pass the State Board's teacher performance~~
14 ~~assessment no later than the end of the first semester of~~
15 ~~the second year of residency, as required under phase (3)~~
16 ~~of this subsection (b),~~ and be recommended by the
17 principal or qualified equivalent of a principal, as
18 required under subsection (d) of this Section, and the
19 program coordinator to continue with the second year of
20 the residency.

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

26 (4) A comprehensive assessment of the candidate's

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

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

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

1 school in this State, but may be renewed for a third year if
2 needed to complete the Alternative Educator Licensure Program
3 for Teachers. The endorsement shall be issued only once to an
4 individual who meets all of the following requirements:

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

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

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

18 (4) Has successfully completed phase (1) of subsection
19 (b) of this Section.

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

23 A candidate possessing the alternative provisional
24 educator endorsement may receive a salary, benefits, and any
25 other terms of employment offered to teachers in the school
26 who are members of an exclusive bargaining representative, if

1 any, but a school is not required to provide these benefits
2 during the years of residency if the candidate is serving only
3 as a co-teacher. If the candidate is serving as the teacher of
4 record, the candidate must receive a salary, benefits, and any
5 other terms of employment. Residency experiences must not be
6 counted towards tenure.

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

1 that are to be provided to assist the provisional teacher
2 during the 2-year residency period. These supports must
3 provide additional contact hours with mentors during the first
4 year of residency.

5 (e) Upon completion of the 4 phases outlined in subsection
6 (b) of this Section and all assessments required under Section
7 21B-30 of this Code, an individual shall receive a
8 Professional Educator License.

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

13 (Source: P.A. 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-822, eff. 1-1-19;
14 101-220, eff. 8-7-19; 101-570, eff. 8-23-19; 101-643, eff.
15 6-18-20.)

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
17 2021.