



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4246

Introduced 1/5/2022, by Rep. Sue Scherer

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-45

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides for the reinstatement of a lapsed Professional Educator License upon the payment by the applicant of a \$50 penalty (rather than a \$500 penalty). Effective immediately.

LRB102 21334 CMG 30446 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

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-45 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-45)

7 Sec. 21B-45. Professional Educator License renewal.

8 (a) Individuals holding a Professional Educator License
9 are required to complete the licensure renewal requirements as
10 specified in this Section, unless otherwise provided in this
11 Code.

12 Individuals holding a Professional Educator License shall
13 meet the renewal requirements set forth in this Section,
14 unless otherwise provided in this Code. If an individual holds
15 a license endorsed in more than one area that has different
16 renewal requirements, that individual shall follow the renewal
17 requirements for the position for which he or she spends the
18 majority of his or her time working.

19 (b) All Professional Educator Licenses not renewed as
20 provided in this Section shall lapse on September 1 of that
21 year. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Section, if
22 a license holder's electronic mail address is available, the
23 State Board of Education shall send him or her notification

1 electronically that his or her license will lapse if not
2 renewed, to be sent no more than 6 months prior to the license
3 lapsing. Lapsed licenses may be immediately reinstated upon
4 (i) payment to the State Board of Education by the applicant of
5 a \$50 ~~\$500~~ penalty ~~to the State Board of Education~~ or (ii) the
6 demonstration of proficiency by completing 9 semester hours of
7 coursework from a regionally accredited institution of higher
8 education in the content area that most aligns with one or more
9 of the educator's endorsement areas. Any and all back fees,
10 including without limitation registration fees owed from the
11 time of expiration of the license until the date of
12 reinstatement, shall be paid and kept in accordance with the
13 provisions in Article 3 of this Code concerning an institute
14 fund and the provisions in Article 21B of this Code concerning
15 fees and requirements for registration. Licenses not
16 registered in accordance with Section 21B-40 of this Code
17 shall lapse after a period of 6 months from the expiration of
18 the last year of registration or on January 1 of the fiscal
19 year following initial issuance of the license. An
20 unregistered license is invalid after September 1 for
21 employment and performance of services in an Illinois public
22 or State-operated school or cooperative and in a charter
23 school. Any license or endorsement may be voluntarily
24 surrendered by the license holder. A voluntarily surrendered
25 license shall be treated as a revoked license. An Educator
26 License with Stipulations with only a paraprofessional

1 endorsement does not lapse.

2 (c) From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, in order to
3 satisfy the requirements for licensure renewal provided for in
4 this Section, each professional educator licensee with an
5 administrative endorsement who is working in a position
6 requiring such endorsement shall complete one Illinois
7 Administrators' Academy course, as described in Article 2 of
8 this Code, per fiscal year.

9 (c-5) All licenses issued by the State Board of Education
10 under this Article that expire on June 30, 2020 and have not
11 been renewed by the end of the 2020 renewal period shall be
12 extended for one year and shall expire on June 30, 2021.

13 (d) Beginning July 1, 2014, in order to satisfy the
14 requirements for licensure renewal provided for in this
15 Section, each professional educator licensee may create a
16 professional development plan each year. The plan shall
17 address one or more of the endorsements that are required of
18 his or her educator position if the licensee is employed and
19 performing services in an Illinois public or State-operated
20 school or cooperative. If the licensee is employed in a
21 charter school, the plan shall address that endorsement or
22 those endorsements most closely related to his or her educator
23 position. Licensees employed and performing services in any
24 other Illinois schools may participate in the renewal
25 requirements by adhering to the same process.

26 Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the

1 licensee's professional development activities shall align
2 with one or more of the following criteria:

3 (1) activities are of a type that engage participants
4 over a sustained period of time allowing for analysis,
5 discovery, and application as they relate to student
6 learning, social or emotional achievement, or well-being;

7 (2) professional development aligns to the licensee's
8 performance;

9 (3) outcomes for the activities must relate to student
10 growth or district improvement;

11 (4) activities align to State-approved standards; and

12 (5) higher education coursework.

13 (e) For each renewal cycle, each professional educator
14 licensee shall engage in professional development activities.
15 Prior to renewal, the licensee shall enter electronically into
16 the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) the name,
17 date, and location of the activity, the number of professional
18 development hours, and the provider's name. The following
19 provisions shall apply concerning professional development
20 activities:

21 (1) Each licensee shall complete a total of 120 hours
22 of professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in
23 order to renew the license, except as otherwise provided
24 in this Section.

25 (2) Beginning with his or her first full 5-year cycle,
26 any licensee with an administrative endorsement who is not

1 working in a position requiring such endorsement is not
2 required to complete Illinois Administrators' Academy
3 courses, as described in Article 2 of this Code. Such
4 licensees must complete one Illinois Administrators'
5 Academy course within one year after returning to a
6 position that requires the administrative endorsement.

7 (3) Any licensee with an administrative endorsement
8 who is working in a position requiring such endorsement or
9 an individual with a Teacher Leader endorsement serving in
10 an administrative capacity at least 50% of the day shall
11 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as
12 described in Article 2 of this Code, each fiscal year in
13 addition to 100 hours of professional development per
14 5-year renewal cycle in accordance with this Code.

15 (4) Any licensee holding a current National Board for
16 Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) master teacher
17 designation shall complete a total of 60 hours of
18 professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in order
19 to renew the license.

20 (5) Licensees working in a position that does not
21 require educator licensure or working in a position for
22 less than 50% for any particular year are considered to be
23 exempt and shall be required to pay only the registration
24 fee in order to renew and maintain the validity of the
25 license.

26 (6) Licensees who are retired and qualify for benefits

1 from a State of Illinois retirement system shall notify
2 the State Board of Education using ELIS, and the license
3 shall be maintained in retired status. For any renewal
4 cycle in which a licensee retires during the renewal
5 cycle, the licensee must complete professional development
6 activities on a prorated basis depending on the number of
7 years during the renewal cycle the educator held an active
8 license. If a licensee retires during a renewal cycle, the
9 licensee must notify the State Board of Education using
10 ELIS that the licensee wishes to maintain the license in
11 retired status and must show proof of completion of
12 professional development activities on a prorated basis
13 for all years of that renewal cycle for which the license
14 was active. An individual with a license in retired status
15 shall not be required to complete professional development
16 activities or pay registration fees until returning to a
17 position that requires educator licensure. Upon returning
18 to work in a position that requires the Professional
19 Educator License, the licensee shall immediately pay a
20 registration fee and complete renewal requirements for
21 that year. A license in retired status cannot lapse.
22 Beginning on January 6, 2017 (the effective date of Public
23 Act 99-920) through December 31, 2017, any licensee who
24 has retired and whose license has lapsed for failure to
25 renew as provided in this Section may reinstate that
26 license and maintain it in retired status upon providing

1 proof to the State Board of Education using ELIS that the
2 licensee is retired and is not working in a position that
3 requires a Professional Educator License.

4 (7) For any renewal cycle in which professional
5 development hours were required, but not fulfilled, the
6 licensee shall complete any missed hours to total the
7 minimum professional development hours required in this
8 Section prior to September 1 of that year. Professional
9 development hours used to fulfill the minimum required
10 hours for a renewal cycle may be used for only one renewal
11 cycle. For any fiscal year or renewal cycle in which an
12 Illinois Administrators' Academy course was required but
13 not completed, the licensee shall complete any missed
14 Illinois Administrators' Academy courses prior to
15 September 1 of that year. The licensee may complete all
16 deficient hours and Illinois Administrators' Academy
17 courses while continuing to work in a position that
18 requires that license until September 1 of that year.

19 (8) Any licensee who has not fulfilled the
20 professional development renewal requirements set forth in
21 this Section at the end of any 5-year renewal cycle is
22 ineligible to register his or her license and may submit
23 an appeal to the State Superintendent of Education for
24 reinstatement of the license.

25 (9) If professional development opportunities were
26 unavailable to a licensee, proof that opportunities were

1 unavailable and request for an extension of time beyond
2 August 31 to complete the renewal requirements may be
3 submitted from April 1 through June 30 of that year to the
4 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. If an
5 extension is approved, the license shall remain valid
6 during the extension period.

7 (10) Individuals who hold exempt licenses prior to
8 December 27, 2013 (the effective date of Public Act
9 98-610) shall commence the annual renewal process with the
10 first scheduled registration due after December 27, 2013
11 (the effective date of Public Act 98-610).

12 (11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
13 subsection (e), if a licensee earns more than the required
14 number of professional development hours during a renewal
15 cycle, then the licensee may carry over any hours earned
16 from April 1 through June 30 of the last year of the
17 renewal cycle. Any hours carried over in this manner must
18 be applied to the next renewal cycle. Illinois
19 Administrators' Academy courses or hours earned in those
20 courses may not be carried over.

21 (f) At the time of renewal, each licensee shall respond to
22 the required questions under penalty of perjury.

23 (f-5) The State Board of Education shall conduct random
24 audits of licensees to verify a licensee's fulfillment of the
25 professional development hours required under this Section.
26 Upon completion of a random audit, if it is determined by the

1 State Board of Education that the licensee did not complete
2 the required number of professional development hours or did
3 not provide sufficient proof of completion, the licensee shall
4 be notified that his or her license has lapsed. A license that
5 has lapsed under this subsection may be reinstated as provided
6 in subsection (b).

7 (g) The following entities shall be designated as approved
8 to provide professional development activities for the renewal
9 of Professional Educator Licenses:

10 (1) The State Board of Education.

11 (2) Regional offices of education and intermediate
12 service centers.

13 (3) Illinois professional associations representing
14 the following groups that are approved by the State
15 Superintendent of Education:

16 (A) school administrators;

17 (B) principals;

18 (C) school business officials;

19 (D) teachers, including special education
20 teachers;

21 (E) school boards;

22 (F) school districts;

23 (G) parents; and

24 (H) school service personnel.

25 (4) Regionally accredited institutions of higher
26 education that offer Illinois-approved educator

1 preparation programs and public community colleges subject
2 to the Public Community College Act.

3 (5) Illinois public school districts, charter schools
4 authorized under Article 27A of this Code, and joint
5 educational programs authorized under Article 10 of this
6 Code for the purposes of providing career and technical
7 education or special education services.

8 (6) A not-for-profit organization that, as of December
9 31, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act 98-1147), has
10 had or has a grant from or a contract with the State Board
11 of Education to provide professional development services
12 in the area of English Learning to Illinois school
13 districts, teachers, or administrators.

14 (7) State agencies, State boards, and State
15 commissions.

16 (8) Museums as defined in Section 10 of the Museum
17 Disposition of Property Act.

18 (h) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this
19 Section shall make available professional development
20 opportunities that satisfy at least one of the following:

21 (1) increase the knowledge and skills of school and
22 district leaders who guide continuous professional
23 development;

24 (2) improve the learning of students;

25 (3) organize adults into learning communities whose
26 goals are aligned with those of the school and district;

- 1 (4) deepen educator's content knowledge;
- 2 (5) provide educators with research-based
- 3 instructional strategies to assist students in meeting
- 4 rigorous academic standards;
- 5 (6) prepare educators to appropriately use various
- 6 types of classroom assessments;
- 7 (7) use learning strategies appropriate to the
- 8 intended goals;
- 9 (8) provide educators with the knowledge and skills to
- 10 collaborate;
- 11 (9) prepare educators to apply research to decision
- 12 making; or
- 13 (10) provide educators with training on inclusive
- 14 practices in the classroom that examines instructional and
- 15 behavioral strategies that improve academic and
- 16 social-emotional outcomes for all students, with or
- 17 without disabilities, in a general education setting.
- 18 (i) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this
- 19 Section shall do the following:
 - 20 (1) align professional development activities to the
 - 21 State-approved national standards for professional
 - 22 learning;
 - 23 (2) meet the professional development criteria for
 - 24 Illinois licensure renewal;
 - 25 (3) produce a rationale for the activity that explains
 - 26 how it aligns to State standards and identify the

1 assessment for determining the expected impact on student
2 learning or school improvement;

3 (4) maintain original documentation for completion of
4 activities;

5 (5) provide license holders with evidence of
6 completion of activities;

7 (6) request an Illinois Educator Identification Number
8 (IEIN) for each educator during each professional
9 development activity; and

10 (7) beginning on July 1, 2019, register annually with
11 the State Board of Education prior to offering any
12 professional development opportunities in the current
13 fiscal year.

14 (j) The State Board of Education shall conduct annual
15 audits of a subset of approved providers, except for school
16 districts, which shall be audited by regional offices of
17 education and intermediate service centers. The State Board of
18 Education shall ensure that each approved provider, except for
19 a school district, is audited at least once every 5 years. The
20 State Board of Education may conduct more frequent audits of
21 providers if evidence suggests the requirements of this
22 Section or administrative rules are not being met.

23 (1) (Blank).

24 (2) Approved providers shall comply with the
25 requirements in subsections (h) and (i) of this Section by
26 annually submitting data to the State Board of Education

1 demonstrating how the professional development activities
2 impacted one or more of the following:

3 (A) educator and student growth in regards to
4 content knowledge or skills, or both;

5 (B) educator and student social and emotional
6 growth; or

7 (C) alignment to district or school improvement
8 plans.

9 (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review
10 the annual data collected by the State Board of Education,
11 regional offices of education, and intermediate service
12 centers in audits to determine if the approved provider
13 has met the criteria and should continue to be an approved
14 provider or if further action should be taken as provided
15 in rules.

16 (k) Registration fees shall be paid for the next renewal
17 cycle between April 1 and June 30 in the last year of each
18 5-year renewal cycle using ELIS. If all required professional
19 development hours for the renewal cycle have been completed
20 and entered by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the
21 registration fees for the next cycle using a form of credit or
22 debit card.

23 (l) Any professional educator licensee endorsed for school
24 support personnel who is employed and performing services in
25 Illinois public schools and who holds an active and current
26 professional license issued by the Department of Financial and

1 Professional Regulation or a national certification board, as
2 approved by the State Board of Education, related to the
3 endorsement areas on the Professional Educator License shall
4 be deemed to have satisfied the continuing professional
5 development requirements provided for in this Section. Such
6 individuals shall be required to pay only registration fees to
7 renew the Professional Educator License. An individual who
8 does not hold a license issued by the Department of Financial
9 and Professional Regulation shall complete professional
10 development requirements for the renewal of a Professional
11 Educator License provided for in this Section.

12 (m) Appeals to the State Educator Preparation and
13 Licensure Board must be made within 30 days after receipt of
14 notice from the State Superintendent of Education that a
15 license will not be renewed based upon failure to complete the
16 requirements of this Section. A licensee may appeal that
17 decision to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
18 in a manner prescribed by rule.

19 (1) Each appeal shall state the reasons why the State
20 Superintendent's decision should be reversed and shall be
21 sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the
22 State Board of Education.

23 (2) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
24 shall review each appeal regarding renewal of a license
25 within 90 days after receiving the appeal in order to
26 determine whether the licensee has met the requirements of

1 this Section. The State Educator Preparation and Licensure
2 Board may hold an appeal hearing or may make its
3 determination based upon the record of review, which shall
4 consist of the following:

5 (A) the regional superintendent of education's
6 rationale for recommending nonrenewal of the license,
7 if applicable;

8 (B) any evidence submitted to the State
9 Superintendent along with the individual's electronic
10 statement of assurance for renewal; and

11 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for
12 nonrenewal of the license.

13 (3) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
14 shall notify the licensee of its decision regarding
15 license renewal by certified mail, return receipt
16 requested, no later than 30 days after reaching a
17 decision. Upon receipt of notification of renewal, the
18 licensee, using ELIS, shall pay the applicable
19 registration fee for the next cycle using a form of credit
20 or debit card.

21 (n) The State Board of Education may adopt rules as may be
22 necessary to implement this Section.

23 (Source: P.A. 100-13, eff. 7-1-17; 100-339, eff. 8-25-17;
24 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18; 101-85, eff.
25 1-1-20; 101-531, eff. 8-23-19; 101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

1 becoming law.