



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4293

Introduced 1/5/2022, by Rep. Thomas M. Bennett

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-30

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. With regard to licensure candidates being required to pass a teacher performance assessment, provides that a candidate may not be required to submit test materials by video or audio submission (rather than by video submission). Instead of a video or audio submission, provides that a candidate may submit a written letter approved and signed by (i) the principal of the school in which the candidate completed student teaching, (ii) the supervising licensed educator overseeing the candidate's classroom experience, and (iii) the candidate's academic advisor at the candidate's educator preparation program stating that the candidate meets the requirements to pass the teacher performance assessment. Provides that the submission of a written letter by a candidate does not waive the requirement that the candidate pass a teacher performance assessment approved by the State Board of Education. Requires the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, to develop a standard form to be used by a candidate in the submission of the written letter. Effective July 1, 2022.

LRB102 22589 CMG 31731 b

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-30 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) 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. A candidate may not be required to submit  
18 test materials by video or audio submission. Instead of a  
19 video or audio submission, a candidate may submit a written  
20 letter that states that the candidate meets the requirements  
21 to pass the teacher performance assessment and that is  
22 approved and signed by (i) the principal of the school in which  
23 the candidate completed student teaching, (ii) the supervising  
24 licensed educator overseeing the candidate's classroom  
25 experience, and (iii) the candidate's academic advisor at the  
26 candidate's educator preparation program; however, the

1 submission of a written letter by a candidate does not waive  
2 the requirement that the candidate pass a teacher performance  
3 assessment approved by the State Board of Education under this  
4 subsection (f). The State Board of Education, in consultation  
5 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall  
6 develop a standard form to be used by a candidate in the  
7 submission of the written letter. Subject to appropriation, an  
8 individual who holds a Professional Educator License and is  
9 employed for a minimum of one school year by a school district  
10 designated as Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 may, after  
11 application to the State Board, receive from the State Board a  
12 refund for any costs associated with completing the teacher  
13 performance assessment under this subsection.

14 (g) The content area knowledge test and the teacher  
15 performance assessment shall be the tests that from time to  
16 time are designated by the State Board of Education, in  
17 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
18 Board, and may be tests prepared by an educational testing  
19 organization or tests designed by the State Board of  
20 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
21 and Licensure Board. The test of content area knowledge shall  
22 assess content knowledge in a specific subject field. The  
23 tests must be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no  
24 person taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis  
25 of race, color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to  
26 the person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The

1 score required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State  
2 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
3 Preparation and Licensure Board. The tests shall be  
4 administered not fewer than 3 times a year at such time and  
5 place as may be designated by the State Board of Education, in  
6 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
7 Board.

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

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

18 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the  
19 testing requirements under this Section shall include without  
20 limitation provisions governing test selection, test  
21 validation and determination of a passing score,  
22 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,  
23 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the  
24 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special  
25 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop  
26 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to

1 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.  
2 (Source: P.A. 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-220, eff. 8-7-19;  
3 101-594, eff. 12-5-19; 102-301, eff. 8-26-21.)

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
5 2022.