

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. The State Board of  
8 Education shall implement a system of educator licensure,  
9 whereby individuals employed in school districts who are  
10 required to be licensed must have one of the following  
11 licenses: (i) a professional educator license; (ii) an  
12 educator license with stipulations; (iii) a substitute  
13 teaching license; or (iv) until June 30, 2023, a short-term  
14 substitute teaching license. References in law regarding  
15 individuals certified or certificated or required to be  
16 certified or certificated under Article 21 of this Code shall  
17 also include individuals licensed or required to be licensed  
18 under this Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June  
19 30 following one full year of the license being issued.

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

1           (1) Professional Educator License. Persons who (i)  
2           have successfully completed an approved educator  
3           preparation program and are recommended for licensure by  
4           the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation  
5           program, (ii) have successfully completed the required  
6           testing under Section 21B-30 of this Code, (iii) have  
7           successfully completed coursework on the psychology of,  
8           the identification of, and the methods of instruction for  
9           the exceptional child, including without limitation  
10          children with learning disabilities, (iv) have  
11          successfully completed coursework in methods of reading  
12          and reading in the content area, and (v) have met all other  
13          criteria established by rule of the State Board of  
14          Education shall be issued a Professional Educator License.  
15          All Professional Educator Licenses are valid until June 30  
16          immediately following 5 years of the license being issued.  
17          The Professional Educator License shall be endorsed with  
18          specific areas and grade levels in which the individual is  
19          eligible to practice. For an early childhood education  
20          endorsement, an individual may satisfy the student  
21          teaching requirement of his or her early childhood teacher  
22          preparation program through placement in a setting with  
23          children from birth through grade 2, and the individual  
24          may be paid and receive credit while student teaching. The  
25          student teaching experience must meet the requirements of  
26          and be approved by the individual's early childhood

1 teacher preparation program.

2 Individuals can receive subsequent endorsements on the  
3 Professional Educator License. Subsequent endorsements  
4 shall require a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework  
5 in the endorsement area and passage of the applicable  
6 content area test, unless otherwise specified by rule.

7 (2) Educator License with Stipulations. An Educator  
8 License with Stipulations shall be issued an endorsement  
9 that limits the license holder to one particular position  
10 or does not require completion of an approved educator  
11 program or both.

12 An individual with an Educator License with  
13 Stipulations must not be employed by a school district or  
14 any other entity to replace any presently employed teacher  
15 who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason.

16 An Educator License with Stipulations may be issued  
17 with the following endorsements:

18 (A) (Blank).

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

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

1 (ii) Successfully completed the first phase of  
2 the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for  
3 Teachers, as described in Section 21B-50 of this  
4 Code.

5 (iii) Passed a content area test, as required  
6 under Section 21B-30 of this Code.

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

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

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

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

25 (iii) Successfully completed the first phase  
26 of an alternative route to superintendent

1 endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55  
2 of this Code.

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

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

8 (D) (Blank).

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

17 The career and technical educator endorsement on  
18 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
19 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
20 endorsement being issued and may be renewed.

21 An individual who holds a valid career and  
22 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
23 with Stipulations but does not hold a bachelor's  
24 degree may substitute teach in career and technical  
25 education classrooms.

26 (F) Part-time provisional career and technical

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

17 The provisional career and technical educator  
18 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
19 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years  
20 of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed for  
21 5 years.

22 A part-time provisional career and technical  
23 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
24 Stipulations may be issued for teaching no more than 2  
25 courses of study for grades 6 through 12. The  
26 part-time provisional career and technical educator

1 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
2 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years  
3 of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed for  
4 5 years if the individual makes application for  
5 renewal.

6 An individual who holds a provisional or part-time  
7 provisional career and technical educator endorsement  
8 on an Educator License with Stipulations but does not  
9 hold a bachelor's degree may substitute teach in  
10 career and technical education classrooms.

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

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

22 (ii) Has the ability to successfully  
23 communicate in English.

24 (iii) Either possessed, within 5 years  
25 previous to his or her applying for a transitional  
26 bilingual educator endorsement, a valid and

1           comparable teaching certificate or comparable  
2           authorization issued by a foreign country or holds  
3           a degree from an institution of higher learning in  
4           a foreign country that the State Educator  
5           Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be  
6           the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a  
7           regionally accredited institution of higher  
8           learning in the United States.

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

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

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

26                 (i) Holds a transitional bilingual



1 endorsement.

2 (ii) Has demonstrated proficiency in the  
3 language for which the endorsement is to be issued  
4 by passing the applicable language content test  
5 required by the State Board of Education.

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

16 (iv) (Blank).

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

23 (I) Visiting international educator. A visiting  
24 international educator endorsement on an Educator  
25 License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
26 individual who is being recruited by a particular

1 school district that conducts formal recruitment  
2 programs outside of the United States to secure the  
3 services of qualified teachers and who meets all of  
4 the following requirements:

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

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

9 (iii) Has adequate content knowledge in the  
10 subject to be taught.

11 (iv) Has an adequate command of the English  
12 language.

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

23 A visiting international educator endorsement on  
24 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 5  
25 years and shall not be renewed.

26 (J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional

1 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
2 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who holds a  
3 high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and  
4 either holds an associate's degree or a minimum of 60  
5 semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited  
6 institution of higher education or has passed a  
7 paraprofessional competency test under subsection  
8 (c-5) of Section 21B-30. The paraprofessional educator  
9 endorsement is valid until June 30 immediately  
10 following 5 years of the endorsement being issued and  
11 may be renewed through application and payment of the  
12 appropriate fee, as required under Section 21B-40 of  
13 this Code. An individual who holds only a  
14 paraprofessional educator endorsement is not subject  
15 to additional requirements in order to renew the  
16 endorsement.

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

1 applicable State tests, including an applicable  
2 content area test.

3 The chief school business official endorsement may  
4 also be affixed to the Educator License with  
5 Stipulations of any holder who qualifies by having a  
6 master's degree in business administration, finance,  
7 accounting, or public administration and who completes  
8 an additional 6 semester hours of internship in school  
9 business management from a regionally accredited  
10 institution of higher education and passes the  
11 applicable State tests, including an applicable  
12 content area test. This endorsement shall be required  
13 for any individual employed as a chief school business  
14 official.

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

25 The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules  
26 necessary to implement Public Act 100-288.

1           (L) Provisional in-state educator. A provisional  
2 in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License  
3 with Stipulations may be issued to a candidate who has  
4 completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation  
5 program at an Illinois institution of higher education  
6 and who has not successfully completed an  
7 evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness but  
8 who meets all of the following requirements:

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

10           (ii) Has completed an approved educator  
11 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

12           (iii) Has passed an applicable content area  
13 test, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.

14           (iv) Has attempted an evidence-based  
15 assessment of teacher effectiveness and received a  
16 minimum score on that assessment, as established  
17 by the State Board of Education in consultation  
18 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
19 Board.

20           A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an  
21 Educator License with Stipulations is valid for one  
22 full fiscal year after the date of issuance and may not  
23 be renewed.

24           (M) (Blank).

25           (N) Specialized services. A specialized services  
26 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations

1           may be issued as defined and specified by rule.

2           (3) Substitute Teaching License. A Substitute Teaching  
3 License may be issued to qualified applicants for  
4 substitute teaching in all grades of the public schools,  
5 prekindergarten through grade 12. Substitute Teaching  
6 Licenses are not eligible for endorsements. Applicants for  
7 a Substitute Teaching License must hold a bachelor's  
8 degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution  
9 of higher education.

10           Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

11           Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for substitute  
12 teaching in every county of this State. If an individual  
13 has had his or her Professional Educator License or  
14 Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked,  
15 then that individual is not eligible to obtain a  
16 Substitute Teaching License.

17           A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a  
18 licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing  
19 board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under  
20 contract because of an emergency situation, then a  
21 district may employ a substitute teacher for no longer  
22 than 30 calendar days per each vacant position in the  
23 district if the district notifies the appropriate regional  
24 office of education within 5 business days after the  
25 employment of the substitute teacher in the emergency  
26 situation. An emergency situation is one in which an

1 unforeseen vacancy has occurred and (i) a teacher is  
2 unable to fulfill his or her contractual duties or (ii)  
3 teacher capacity needs of the district exceed previous  
4 indications, and the district is actively engaged in  
5 advertising to hire a fully licensed teacher for the  
6 vacant position.

7 There is no limit on the number of days that a  
8 substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,  
9 provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer  
10 than 120 days beginning with the 2021-2022 school year  
11 through the 2022-2023 school year, otherwise 90 school  
12 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the  
13 same school year. A substitute teacher who holds a  
14 Professional Educator License or Educator License with  
15 Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school days  
16 for any one licensed teacher under contract in the same  
17 school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on the  
18 number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do not  
19 apply to any school district operating under Article 34 of  
20 this Code.

21 A school district may not require an individual who  
22 holds a valid Professional Educator License or Educator  
23 License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute  
24 Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher.

25 (4) Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Beginning  
26 on July 1, 2018 and until June 30, 2023, the State Board of

1 Education may issue a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
2 License. A Short-Term Substitute Teaching License may be  
3 issued to a qualified applicant for substitute teaching in  
4 all grades of the public schools, prekindergarten through  
5 grade 12. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are not  
6 eligible for endorsements. Applicants for a Short-Term  
7 Substitute Teaching License must hold an associate's  
8 degree or have completed at least 60 credit hours from a  
9 regionally accredited institution of higher education.

10 Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for  
11 substitute teaching in every county of this State. If an  
12 individual has had his or her Professional Educator  
13 License or Educator License with Stipulations suspended or  
14 revoked, then that individual is not eligible to obtain a  
15 Short-Term Substitute Teaching License.

16 The provisions of Sections 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 of this  
17 Code apply to short-term substitute teachers.

18 An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
19 License may teach no more than 5 consecutive days per  
20 licensed teacher who is under contract. For teacher  
21 absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who  
22 is under contract, a school district may not hire an  
23 individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
24 License. An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute  
25 Teaching License must complete the training program under  
26 Section 10-20.67 or 34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible



1 to teach at a public school. This paragraph (4) is  
2 inoperative on and after July 1, 2023.

3 (Source: P.A. 100-8, eff. 7-1-17; 100-13, eff. 7-1-17;  
4 100-288, eff. 8-24-17; 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-821, eff.  
5 9-3-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-220,  
6 eff. 8-7-19; 101-594, eff. 12-5-19; 101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
8 becoming law.