

**SB3988**



**102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2021 and 2022**

**SB3988**

Introduced 1/21/2022, by Sen. Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

105 ILCS 5/21B-15  
105 ILCS 5/21B-20

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides that a paraprofessional educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who is at least 18 years of age and will be using the Educator License with Stipulations exclusively for elementary education. Makes a corresponding change.

LRB102 24650 NLB 33889 b

**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-15 and 21B-20 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-15)

7 Sec. 21B-15. Qualifications of educators.

8 (a) No one may be licensed to teach or supervise or be  
9 otherwise employed in the public schools of this State who is  
10 not of good character and at least 19 years of age, except as  
11 otherwise provided in subparagraph (J) of subsection (2) of  
12 Section 21B-20.

13 In determining good character under this Section, the  
14 State Superintendent of Education shall take into  
15 consideration the disciplinary actions of other states or  
16 national entities against certificates or licenses issued by  
17 those states and held by individuals from those states. In  
18 addition, any felony conviction of the applicant may be taken  
19 into consideration; however, no one may be licensed to teach  
20 or supervise in the public schools of this State who has been  
21 convicted of (i) an offense set forth in subsection (b) of  
22 Section 21B-80 of this Code until 7 years following the end of  
23 the sentence for the criminal offense or (ii) an offense set

1     forth in subsection (c) of Section 21B-80 of this Code. Unless  
2     the conviction is for an offense set forth in Section 21B-80 of  
3     this Code, an applicant must be permitted to submit character  
4     references or other written material before such a conviction  
5     or other information regarding the applicant's character may  
6     be used by the State Superintendent of Education as a basis for  
7     denying the application.

8           (b) No person otherwise qualified shall be denied the  
9     right to be licensed or to receive training for the purpose of  
10    becoming an educator because of a physical disability,  
11    including, but not limited to, visual and hearing  
12    disabilities; nor shall any school district refuse to employ a  
13    teacher on such grounds, provided that the person is able to  
14    carry out the duties of the position for which he or she  
15    applies.

16           (c) No person may be granted or continue to hold an  
17    educator license who has knowingly altered or misrepresented  
18    his or her qualifications, in this State or any other state, in  
19    order to acquire or renew the license. Any other license  
20    issued under this Article held by the person may be suspended  
21    or revoked by the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
22    Board, depending upon the severity of the alteration or  
23    misrepresentation.

24           (d) No one may teach or supervise in the public schools nor  
25    receive for teaching or supervising any part of any public  
26    school fund who does not hold an educator license granted by

1 the State Superintendent of Education as provided in this  
2 Article. However, the provisions of this Article do not apply  
3 to a member of the armed forces who is employed as a teacher of  
4 subjects in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of any  
5 school, nor to an individual teaching a dual credit course as  
6 provided for in the Dual Credit Quality Act.

7 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the  
8 school board of a school district may grant to a teacher of the  
9 district a leave of absence with full pay for a period of not  
10 more than one year to permit the teacher to teach in a foreign  
11 state under the provisions of the Exchange Teacher Program  
12 established under Public Law 584, 79th Congress, and Public  
13 Law 402, 80th Congress, as amended. The school board granting  
14 the leave of absence may employ, with or without pay, a  
15 national of the foreign state wherein the teacher on the leave  
16 of absence is to teach if the national is qualified to teach in  
17 that foreign state and if that national is to teach in a grade  
18 level similar to the one that was taught in the foreign state.  
19 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
20 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt rules as  
21 may be necessary to implement this subsection (e).

22 (f) No person shall be denied a license issued under this  
23 Article solely based on his or her citizenship status or  
24 immigration status. The General Assembly finds and declares  
25 that this subsection (f) is a State law within the meaning of  
26 subsection (d) of Section 1621 of Title 8 of the United States

1 Code. Nothing in this subsection shall affect the requirements  
2 to obtain a license that are not directly related to  
3 citizenship status or immigration status. Nothing in this  
4 subsection shall be construed to grant eligibility for  
5 obtaining any public benefit other than a license issued under  
6 this Article.

7 (Source: P.A. 99-667, eff. 7-29-16; 100-13, eff. 7-1-17;  
8 100-1078, eff. 1-1-19.)

9 (105 ILCS 5/21B-20)

10 Sec. 21B-20. Types of licenses. The State Board of  
11 Education shall implement a system of educator licensure,  
12 whereby individuals employed in school districts who are  
13 required to be licensed must have one of the following  
14 licenses: (i) a professional educator license; (ii) an  
15 educator license with stipulations; (iii) a substitute  
16 teaching license; or (iv) until June 30, 2023, a short-term  
17 substitute teaching license. References in law regarding  
18 individuals certified or certificated or required to be  
19 certified or certificated under Article 21 of this Code shall  
20 also include individuals licensed or required to be licensed  
21 under this Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June  
22 30 following one full year of the license being issued.

23 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
24 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
25 rules as may be necessary to govern the requirements for

1 licenses and endorsements under this Section.

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

1 and be approved by the individual's early childhood  
2 teacher preparation program.

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

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

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

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

19 (A) (Blank).

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

25 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
26 college or university with a minimum of a

1 bachelor's degree.

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (iii) Successfully completed the first phase



1 of an alternative route to superintendent  
2 endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55  
3 of this Code.

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

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

9 (D) (Blank).

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

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

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

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

18 The provisional career and technical educator  
19 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
20 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years  
21 of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed for  
22 5 years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (iii) Either possessed, within 5 years  
26 previous to his or her applying for a transitional

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

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

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

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

1 (i) Holds a transitional bilingual  
2 endorsement.

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

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

17 (iv) (Blank).

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

24 (I) Visiting international educator. A visiting  
25 international educator endorsement on an Educator  
26 License with Stipulations may be issued to an

1 individual who is being recruited by a particular  
2 school district that conducts formal recruitment  
3 programs outside of the United States to secure the  
4 services of qualified teachers and who meets all of  
5 the following requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional  
2 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
3 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who holds a  
4 high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and  
5 (i) either holds an associate's degree or a minimum of  
6 60 semester hours of credit from a regionally  
7 accredited institution of higher education; (ii) ~~or~~  
8 has passed a paraprofessional competency test under  
9 subsection (c-5) of Section 21B-30; or (iii) is at  
10 least 18 years of age and will be using the Educator  
11 License with Stipulations exclusively for elementary  
12 education. The paraprofessional educator endorsement  
13 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years  
14 of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed  
15 through application and payment of the appropriate  
16 fee, as required under Section 21B-40 of this Code. An  
17 individual who holds only a paraprofessional educator  
18 endorsement is not subject to additional requirements  
19 in order to renew the endorsement.

20 (K) Chief school business official. A chief school  
21 business official endorsement on an Educator License  
22 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
23 qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2  
24 years of full-time administrative experience in school  
25 business management or 2 years of university-approved  
26 practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester

1 hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the  
2 State Board of Education for the preparation of school  
3 business administrators and by passage of the  
4 applicable State tests, including an applicable  
5 content area test.

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

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



1 Education.

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

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

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

13 (ii) Has completed an approved educator  
14 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

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

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

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

1 (M) (Blank).

2 (N) Specialized services. A specialized services  
3 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
4 may be issued as defined and specified by rule.

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

13 Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

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

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

1 office of education within 5 business days after the  
2 employment of the substitute teacher in the emergency  
3 situation. An emergency situation is one in which an  
4 unforeseen vacancy has occurred and (i) a teacher is  
5 unable to fulfill his or her contractual duties or (ii)  
6 teacher capacity needs of the district exceed previous  
7 indications, and the district is actively engaged in  
8 advertising to hire a fully licensed teacher for the  
9 vacant position.

10 There is no limit on the number of days that a  
11 substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,  
12 provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer  
13 than 90 school days for any one licensed teacher under  
14 contract in the same school year. A substitute teacher who  
15 holds a Professional Educator License or Educator License  
16 with Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school  
17 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the  
18 same school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on  
19 the number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do  
20 not apply to any school district operating under Article  
21 34 of this Code.

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

26 (4) Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Beginning

1 on July 1, 2018 and until June 30, 2023, the State Board of  
2 Education may issue a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
3 License. A Short-Term Substitute Teaching License may be  
4 issued to a qualified applicant for substitute teaching in  
5 all grades of the public schools, prekindergarten through  
6 grade 12. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are not  
7 eligible for endorsements. Applicants for a Short-Term  
8 Substitute Teaching License must hold an associate's  
9 degree or have completed at least 60 credit hours from a  
10 regionally accredited institution of higher education.

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

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

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

1           Section 10-20.67 or 34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible  
2           to teach at a public school. This paragraph (4) is  
3           inoperative on and after July 1, 2023.

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