

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 grades
12 prekindergarten through grade 8, until the individual
13 reaches the age of 19 years and otherwise meets the
14 criteria for a paraprofessional educator endorsement
15 pursuant to this subparagraph (J). The
16 paraprofessional educator endorsement is valid until
17 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the
18 endorsement being issued and may be renewed through
19 application and payment of the appropriate fee, as
20 required under Section 21B-40 of this Code. An
21 individual who holds only a paraprofessional educator
22 endorsement is not subject to additional requirements
23 in order to renew the endorsement.

24 (K) Chief school business official. A chief school
25 business official endorsement on an Educator License
26 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who

1 qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2
2 years of full-time administrative experience in school
3 business management or 2 years of university-approved
4 practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester
5 hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the
6 State Board of Education for the preparation of school
7 business administrators and by passage of the
8 applicable State tests, including an applicable
9 content area test.

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

22 The chief school business official endorsement on
23 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until
24 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the
25 endorsement being issued and may be renewed if the
26 license holder completes renewal requirements as

1 required for individuals who hold a Professional
2 Educator License endorsed for chief school business
3 official under Section 21B-45 of this Code and such
4 rules as may be adopted by the State Board of
5 Education.

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

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

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

17 (ii) Has completed an approved educator
18 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

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

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

1 A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an
2 Educator License with Stipulations is valid for one
3 full fiscal year after the date of issuance and may not
4 be renewed.

5 (M) (Blank).

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

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

17 Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

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

24 A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a
25 licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing
26 board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under

1 contract because of an emergency situation, then a
2 district may employ a substitute teacher for no longer
3 than 30 calendar days per each vacant position in the
4 district if the district notifies the appropriate regional
5 office of education within 5 business days after the
6 employment of the substitute teacher in the emergency
7 situation. An emergency situation is one in which an
8 unforeseen vacancy has occurred and (i) a teacher is
9 unable to fulfill his or her contractual duties or (ii)
10 teacher capacity needs of the district exceed previous
11 indications, and the district is actively engaged in
12 advertising to hire a fully licensed teacher for the
13 vacant position.

14 There is no limit on the number of days that a
15 substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,
16 provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer
17 than 90 school days for any one licensed teacher under
18 contract in the same school year. A substitute teacher who
19 holds a Professional Educator License or Educator License
20 with Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school
21 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the
22 same school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on
23 the number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do
24 not apply to any school district operating under Article
25 34 of this Code.

26 A school district may not require an individual who

1 holds a valid Professional Educator License or Educator
2 License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute
3 Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher.

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

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

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

23 An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching
24 License may teach no more than 5 consecutive days per
25 licensed teacher who is under contract. For teacher
26 absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who

1 is under contract, a school district may not hire an
2 individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching
3 License. An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute
4 Teaching License must complete the training program under
5 Section 10-20.67 or 34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible
6 to teach at a public school. This paragraph (4) is
7 inoperative on and after July 1, 2023.

8 (Source: P.A. 100-8, eff. 7-1-17; 100-13, eff. 7-1-17;
9 100-288, eff. 8-24-17; 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-821, eff.
10 9-3-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-220,
11 eff. 8-7-19; 101-594, eff. 12-5-19; 101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)