

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
5 Sections 21-1 and 21-11.1 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-1) (from Ch. 122, par. 21-1)

7 Sec. 21-1. Qualification of teachers. No one may be
8 certified to teach or supervise in the public schools of this
9 State who is not of good character, of good health, a citizen
10 of the United States or legally present and authorized for
11 employment, and at least 19 years of age. An applicant for a
12 certificate who is not a citizen of the United States must
13 sign and file with the State Board of Education a letter of
14 intent indicating that either (i) within 10 years after the
15 date that the letter is filed or (ii) at the earliest
16 opportunity after the person becomes eligible to apply for
17 U.S. citizenship, the person will apply for U.S. citizenship.
18 ~~If the holder of a certificate under this Section is not a~~
19 ~~citizen of the United States 6 years after the date of the~~
20 ~~issuance of the original certificate, any certificate held by~~
21 ~~such person on that date shall be cancelled by the board of~~
22 ~~education and no other certificate to teach shall be issued~~
23 ~~to such person until such person is a citizen of the United~~
24 ~~States.~~

25 Citizenship is not required for the issuance of a
26 temporary part-time certificate to participants in approved
27 training programs for exchange students as described in
28 Section 21-10.2. A certificate issued under this plan shall
29 expire on June 30 following the date of issue. One renewal
30 for one year is authorized if the holder remains as an
31 official participant in an approved exchange program.

1 In determining good character under this Section, any
2 felony conviction of the applicant may be taken into
3 consideration, but such a conviction shall not operate as a
4 bar to registration.

5 No person otherwise qualified shall be denied the right
6 to be certified, to receive training for the purpose of
7 becoming a teacher or to engage in practice teaching in any
8 school because of a physical disability including but not
9 limited to visual and hearing disabilities; nor shall any
10 school district refuse to employ a teacher on such grounds,
11 provided that the person is able to carry out the duties of
12 the position for which he applies.

13 No person may be granted or continue to hold a teaching
14 certificate who has knowingly altered or misrepresented his
15 or her teaching qualifications in order to acquire the
16 certificate. Any other certificate held by such person may
17 be suspended or revoked by the State Teacher Certification
18 Board, depending upon the severity of the alteration or
19 misrepresentation.

20 No one may teach or supervise in the public schools nor
21 receive for teaching or supervising any part of any public
22 school fund, who does not hold a certificate of qualification
23 granted by the State Board of Education or by the State
24 Teacher Certification Board and a regional superintendent of
25 schools as hereinafter provided, or by the board of education
26 of a city having a population exceeding 500,000 inhabitants
27 except as provided in Section 34-6 and in Section 10-22.34 or
28 Section 10-22.34b. However, the provisions of this Article do
29 not apply to a member of the armed forces who is employed as
30 a teacher of subjects in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps
31 of any school. Sections 21-2 through 21-24 do not apply to
32 cities having a population exceeding 500,000 inhabitants,
33 until July 1, 1988.

34 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the

1 board of education of any school district may grant to a
2 teacher of the district a leave of absence with full pay for
3 a period of not more than one year to permit such teacher to
4 teach in a foreign state under the provisions of the Exchange
5 Teacher Program established under Public Law 584, 79th
6 Congress, and Public Law 402, 80th Congress, as amended. The
7 school board granting such leave of absence may employ with
8 or without pay a national of the foreign state wherein the
9 teacher on leave of absence will teach, if the national is
10 qualified to teach in that foreign state, and if that
11 national will teach in a grade level similar to the one which
12 was taught in such foreign state. The State Board of
13 Education shall promulgate and enforce such reasonable rules
14 as may be necessary to effectuate this paragraph.

15 (Source: P.A. 88-189; 89-159, eff. 1-1-96; 89-397, eff.
16 8-20-95; 89-626, eff. 8-9-96.)

17 (105 ILCS 5/21-11.1) (from Ch. 122, par. 21-11.1)

18 Sec. 21-11.1. Certificates for equivalent
19 qualifications. An applicant who holds or is eligible to hold
20 a teacher's certificate or license under the laws of another
21 state or territory of the United States may be granted a
22 corresponding teacher's certificate in Illinois on the
23 written authorization of the State Board of Education and the
24 State Teacher Certification Board upon the following
25 conditions:

26 (1) That the applicant is at least 19 years of age,
27 is of good character, of good health, and a citizen of
28 the United States or legally present and authorized for
29 employment; and

30 (2) That the requirements for a similar teacher's
31 certificate in the particular state or territory were, at
32 the date of issuance of the certificate, substantially
33 equal to the requirements in force at the time the

1 application is made for the certificate in this State.

2 After January 1, 1988, in addition to satisfying the
3 foregoing conditions and requirements, an applicant for a
4 corresponding teaching certificate in Illinois also shall be
5 required to pass the examinations required under the
6 provisions of Section 21-1a as directed by the State Board of
7 Education.

8 In determining good character under this Section, any
9 felony conviction of the applicant may be taken into
10 consideration, but the conviction shall not operate as a bar
11 to registration.

12 The State Board of Education in consultation with the
13 State Teacher Certification Board shall prescribe rules and
14 regulations establishing the similarity of certificates in
15 other states and the standards for determining the
16 equivalence of requirements.

17 (Source: P.A. 90-548, eff. 1-1-98.)