



93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
State of Illinois
2003 and 2004

Introduced 02/04/04, by Jim Watson

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21-1

from Ch. 122, par. 21-1

Amends the School Code. Provides that no one may be certified to teach or supervise in the public schools unless the person is at least 18 (now, 19) years of age.

LRB093 18302 NHT 44007 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 21-1 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 18 ~~19~~ years of age. An applicant for a
12 certificate who is not a citizen of the United States must sign
13 and file with the State Board of Education a letter of intent
14 indicating that either (i) within 10 years after the date that
15 the letter is filed or (ii) at the earliest opportunity after
16 the person becomes eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship, the
17 person will apply for U.S. citizenship.

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

25 In determining good character under this Section, any
26 felony conviction of the applicant may be taken into
27 consideration, but such a conviction shall not operate as a bar
28 to registration.

29 No person otherwise qualified shall be denied the right to
30 be certified, to receive training for the purpose of becoming a
31 teacher or to engage in practice teaching in any school because
32 of a physical disability including but not limited to visual

1 and hearing disabilities; nor shall any school district refuse
2 to employ a teacher on such grounds, provided that the person
3 is able to carry out the duties of the position for which he
4 applies.

5 No person may be granted or continue to hold a teaching
6 certificate who has knowingly altered or misrepresented his or
7 her teaching qualifications in order to acquire the
8 certificate. Any other certificate held by such person may be
9 suspended or revoked by the State Teacher Certification Board,
10 depending upon the severity of the alteration or
11 misrepresentation.

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

25 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the board
26 of education of any school district may grant to a teacher of
27 the district a leave of absence with full pay for a period of
28 not more than one year to permit such teacher to teach in a
29 foreign state under the provisions of the Exchange Teacher
30 Program established under Public Law 584, 79th Congress, and
31 Public Law 402, 80th Congress, as amended. The school board
32 granting such leave of absence may employ with or without pay a
33 national of the foreign state wherein the teacher on leave of
34 absence will teach, if the national is qualified to teach in
35 that foreign state, and if that national will teach in a grade
36 level similar to the one which was taught in such foreign

1 state. The State Board of Education shall promulgate and
2 enforce such reasonable rules as may be necessary to effectuate
3 this paragraph.

4 (Source: P.A. 93-572, eff. 1-1-04.)