



## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

SB2481

Introduced 2/15/2008, by Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21-1a	from Ch. 122, par. 21-1a
105 ILCS 5/21-10	from Ch. 122, par. 21-10

Amends the Teacher Certification Article of the School Code. Removes a provision that provides that a person who holds a valid and comparable out-of-state certificate is not required to take the tests of basic skills and subject matter knowledge. Removes a provision that requires a provisional certificate holder to pass the examinations set forth by the State Board of Education within 9 months. Removes a provision that provides that a failure to pass the tests of basic skills and subject matter knowledge shall result in cancellation of a provisional certificate. Effective July 1, 2008.

LRB095 15748 NHT 41755 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

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 21-1a and 21-10 as follows:

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

7 Sec. 21-1a. Tests required for certification and teacher  
8 preparation.

9 (a) After July 1, 1988, in addition to all other  
10 requirements, early childhood, elementary, special, high  
11 school, school service personnel, or, except as provided in  
12 Section 34-6, administrative certificates shall be issued to  
13 persons who have satisfactorily passed a test of basic skills  
14 and subject matter knowledge. ~~A person who holds a valid and~~  
15 ~~comparable out of state certificate, however, is not required~~  
16 ~~to take a test of basic skills and is not required to take a~~  
17 ~~test of subject matter knowledge, provided that the person has~~  
18 ~~successfully passed a test of subject matter knowledge in~~  
19 ~~another state or territory of the United States that is~~  
20 ~~directly related in content to the specific subject area of~~  
21 ~~certification.~~ The tests of basic skills and subject matter  
22 knowledge shall be the tests which from time to time are  
23 designated by the State Board of Education in consultation with

1 the State Teacher Certification Board and may be tests prepared  
2 by an educational testing organization or tests designed by the  
3 State Board of Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
4 Certification Board. The areas to be covered by the test of  
5 basic skills shall include the basic skills of reading,  
6 writing, grammar and mathematics. The test of subject matter  
7 knowledge shall assess content knowledge in the specific  
8 subject field. The tests shall be designed to be racially  
9 neutral to assure that no person in taking the tests is thereby  
10 discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national  
11 origin or other factors unrelated to the person's ability to  
12 perform as a certificated employee. The score required to pass  
13 the tests of basic skills and subject matter knowledge shall be  
14 fixed by the State Board of Education in consultation with the  
15 State Teacher Certification Board. The tests shall be held not  
16 fewer than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be  
17 designated by the State Board of Education in consultation with  
18 the State Teacher Certification Board.

19 (b) Except as provided in Section 34-6, the provisions of  
20 subsection (a) of this Section shall apply equally in any  
21 school district subject to Article 34, provided that the State  
22 Board of Education shall determine which certificates issued  
23 under Sections 34-8.1 and 34-83 prior to July 1, 1988 are  
24 comparable to any early childhood certificate, elementary  
25 school certificate, special certificate, high school  
26 certificate, school service personnel certificate or

1 administrative certificate issued under this Article as of July  
2 1, 1988.

3 (c) A person who holds an early childhood, elementary,  
4 special, high school or school service personnel certificate  
5 issued under this Article on or at any time before July 1,  
6 1988, including a person who has been issued any such  
7 certificate pursuant to Section 21-11.1 or in exchange for a  
8 comparable certificate theretofore issued under Section 34-8.1  
9 or Section 34-83, shall not be required to take or pass the  
10 tests in order to thereafter have such certificate renewed.

11 (d) The State Board of Education in consultation with the  
12 State Teacher Certification Board shall conduct a pilot  
13 administration of the tests by administering the test to  
14 students completing teacher education programs in the 1986-87  
15 school year for the purpose of determining the effect and  
16 impact of testing candidates for certification.

17 Beginning with the 2002-2003 academic year, a student may  
18 not enroll in a teacher preparation program at a recognized  
19 teacher training institution until he or she has passed the  
20 basic skills test.

21 Beginning on the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
22 the 94th General Assembly, prior to completing an approved  
23 teacher preparation program, a preservice education candidate  
24 must satisfactorily pass the test of subject matter knowledge  
25 in the discipline in which he or she will be certified to  
26 teach. The teacher preparation program may require passage of

1 the test of subject matter knowledge at any time during the  
2 program, including prior to student teaching.

3 (e) The rules and regulations developed to implement the  
4 required test of basic skills and subject matter knowledge  
5 shall include the requirements of subsections (a), (b), and (c)  
6 and shall include specific regulations to govern test  
7 selection; test validation and determination of a passing  
8 score; administration of the tests; frequency of  
9 administration; applicant fees; frequency of applicants'  
10 taking the tests; the years for which a score is valid; and,  
11 waiving certain additional tests for additional certificates  
12 to individuals who have satisfactorily passed the test of basic  
13 skills and subject matter knowledge as required in subsection  
14 (a). The State Board of Education shall provide, by rule,  
15 specific policies that assure uniformity in the difficulty  
16 level of each form of the basic skills test and each subject  
17 matter knowledge test from test-to-test and year-to-year. The  
18 State Board of Education shall also set a passing score for the  
19 tests.

20 (f) The State Teacher Certification Board may issue a  
21 nonrenewable temporary certificate between July 1, 1988 and  
22 August 31, 1988 to individuals who have taken the tests of  
23 basic skills and subject matter knowledge prescribed by this  
24 Section but have not received such test scores by August 31,  
25 1988. Such temporary certificates shall expire on December 31,  
26 1988.

1           (g) Beginning February 15, 2000, the State Board of  
2 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
3 Certification Board, shall implement and administer a new  
4 system of certification for teachers in the State of Illinois.  
5 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
6 Teacher Certification Board, shall design and implement a  
7 system of examinations and various other criteria which shall  
8 be required prior to the issuance of Initial Teaching  
9 Certificates and Standard Teaching Certificates. These  
10 examinations and indicators shall be based on national and  
11 State professional teaching standards, as determined by the  
12 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
13 Teacher Certification Board. The State Board of Education may  
14 adopt any and all regulations necessary to implement and  
15 administer this Section.

16           (h) The State Board of Education shall report to the  
17 Illinois General Assembly and the Governor with  
18 recommendations for further changes and improvements to the  
19 teacher certification system no later than July 1, 1999 and on  
20 an annual basis until July 1, 2001.

21           (Source: P.A. 93-679, eff. 6-30-04; 94-208, eff. 7-14-05.)

22           (105 ILCS 5/21-10) (from Ch. 122, par. 21-10)

23           Sec. 21-10. Provisional certificate.

24           (A) Until July 1, 1972, the State Teacher Certification  
25 Board may issue a provisional certificate valid for teaching in

1 elementary, high school or special subject fields subject to  
2 the following conditions:

3 A provisional certificate may be issued to a person who  
4 presents certified evidence of having earned a bachelor's  
5 degree from a recognized institution of higher learning. The  
6 academic and professional courses offered as a basis of the  
7 provisional certificate shall be courses approved by the State  
8 Board of Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
9 Certification Board.

10 A certificate earned under this plan may be renewed at the  
11 end of each two-year period upon evidence filed with the State  
12 Teacher Certification Board that the holder has earned 8  
13 semester hours of credit within the period; provided the  
14 requirements for the certificate of the same type issued for  
15 the teaching position for which the teacher is employed shall  
16 be met by the end of the second renewal period. A second  
17 provisional certificate shall not be issued. The credits so  
18 earned must be approved by the State Board of Education in  
19 consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board and  
20 must meet the general pattern for a similar type of certificate  
21 issued on the basis of credit. No more than 4 semester hours  
22 shall be chosen from elective subjects.

23 (B) After July 1, 1972, the State Teacher Certification  
24 Board may issue a provisional certificate valid for teaching in  
25 early childhood, elementary, high school or special subject  
26 fields, or for providing service as school service personnel or

1 for administering schools subject to the following conditions:  
2 A provisional certificate may be issued to a person who meets  
3 the requirements for a regular teaching, school service  
4 personnel or administrative certificate in another State and  
5 who presents certified evidence of having earned a bachelor's  
6 degree from a recognized institution of higher learning. The  
7 academic and professional courses offered as a basis of the  
8 provisional certificate shall be courses approved by the State  
9 Board of Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
10 Certification Board. A certificate earned under this plan is  
11 valid for a period of 2 years and shall not be renewed,  
12 ~~however, the individual to whom this certificate is issued~~  
13 ~~shall have passed or shall pass the examinations set forth by~~  
14 ~~the State Board of Education within 9 months of the date of~~  
15 ~~issuance of the provisional certificate. Failure to pass the~~  
16 ~~tests, required in Section 21-1a, shall result in the~~  
17 ~~cancellation of the provisional certificate.~~

18 (C) The State Teacher Certification Board may also issue a  
19 provisional vocational certificate and a temporary provisional  
20 vocational certificate.

21 (1) The requirements for a provisional vocational  
22 certificate shall be determined by the State Board of  
23 Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
24 Certification Board; provided, the following minimum  
25 requirements are met: (a) after July 1, 1972, at least 30  
26 semester hours of credit from a recognized institution of



1 higher learning; and (b) after July 1, 1974, at least 60  
2 semester hours of credit from a recognized institution of  
3 higher learning.

4 (2) The requirements for a temporary provisional  
5 vocational certificate shall be determined by the State  
6 Board of Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
7 Certification Board; provided, the following minimum  
8 requirements are met: (a) after July 1, 1973, at least  
9 4,000 hours of work experience in the skill to be certified  
10 for teaching; and (b) after July 1, 1975, at least 8,000  
11 hours of work experience in the skill to be certified for  
12 teaching. Any certificate issued under the provisions of  
13 this paragraph shall expire on June 30 following the date  
14 of issue. Renewals may be granted on a yearly basis, but  
15 shall not be granted to any person who does not file with  
16 the State Teacher Certification Board a transcript showing  
17 at least 3 semester hours of credit earned during the  
18 previous year in a recognized institution of learning. No  
19 such certificate shall be issued except upon certification  
20 by the employing board, subject to the approval of the  
21 regional superintendent of schools, that no qualified  
22 teacher holding a regular certificate or a provisional  
23 vocational certificate is available and that actual  
24 circumstances and need require such issuance.

25 The courses or work experience offered as a basis for the  
26 issuance of the provisional vocational certificate or the

1 temporary provisional vocational certificate shall be approved  
2 by the State Board of Education in consultation with the State  
3 Teacher Certification Board.

4 (D) Until July 1, 1972, the State Teacher Certification  
5 Board may also issue a provisional foreign language certificate  
6 valid for 4 years for teaching the foreign language named  
7 therein in all grades of the common schools and shall be issued  
8 to persons who have graduated from a recognized institution of  
9 higher learning with not fewer than 120 semester hours of  
10 credit and who have met other requirements as determined by the  
11 State Board of Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
12 Certification Board. If the holder of a provisional foreign  
13 language certificate is not a citizen of the United States  
14 within 6 years of the date of issuance of the original  
15 certificate, such certificate shall be suspended by the  
16 regional superintendent of schools of the region in which the  
17 holder is engaged to teach and shall not be reinstated until  
18 the holder is a citizen of the United States.

19 (E) Notwithstanding anything in this Act to the contrary,  
20 the State Teacher Certification Board shall issue part-time  
21 provisional certificates to eligible individuals who are  
22 professionals and craftsmen.

23 The requirements for a part-time provisional teachers  
24 certificate shall be determined by the State Board of Education  
25 in consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board,  
26 provided the following minimum requirements are met: 60

1 semester hours of credit from a recognized institution of  
2 higher learning or 4000 hours of work experience in the skill  
3 to be certified for teaching.

4 A part-time provisional certificate may be issued for  
5 teaching no more than 2 courses of study for grades 6 through  
6 12.

7 A part-time provisional teachers certificate shall be  
8 valid for 2 years and may be renewed at the end of each 2 year  
9 period.

10 (Source: P.A. 90-548, eff. 1-1-98; 91-357, eff. 7-29-99.)

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
12 2008.