

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 21-5b as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-5b)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2015)

8 Sec. 21-5b. Alternative certification. The State Board of
9 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher
10 Certification Board, shall establish and implement an
11 alternative certification program under which persons who meet
12 the requirements of and successfully complete the program
13 established by this Section shall be issued an alternative
14 teaching certificate for teaching in the schools. The program
15 shall be limited to not more than 260 new participants during
16 each year that the program is in effect. The State Board of
17 Education, in cooperation with one or more not-for-profit
18 organizations in the State that support excellence in teaching,
19 which may be in partnership with a university that offers
20 4-year baccalaureate and masters degree programs and that is a
21 recognized institution as defined in Section 21B-105 of this
22 Code, may within 30 days after submission by the program
23 sponsor approve a course of study developed by the program

1 sponsor that persons in the program must successfully complete
2 in order to satisfy one criterion for issuance of an
3 alternative certificate under this Section. The Alternative
4 Teacher Certification program course of study must include
5 content and skills which have been approved by the State Board
6 of Education, in consultation with the State Teacher
7 Certification Board, as meeting the requirement for State
8 teacher certification.

9 The alternative certification program established under
10 this Section shall be known as the Alternative Teacher
11 Certification program. The Alternative Teacher Certification
12 Program shall be offered by the submitting partnership, and
13 such partnership may be offered by one or more not-for-profit
14 organizations in the State which support excellence in
15 teaching. The program shall be comprised of the following 3
16 phases: (a) the first phase is the course of study offered on
17 an intensive basis in education theory, instructional methods,
18 and practice teaching; (b) the second phase is the person's
19 assignment to a full-time teaching position for one school
20 year; and (c) the third phase is a comprehensive assessment of
21 the person's teaching performance by school officials and the
22 partnership participants and a recommendation by the program
23 sponsor to the State Board of Education that the person be
24 issued a standard alternative teaching certificate. Successful
25 completion of the Alternative Teacher Certification program
26 shall be deemed to satisfy any other practice or student

1 teaching and subject matter requirements established by law.

2 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for
3 one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,
4 shall be issued under this Section 21-5b to persons who at the
5 time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching
6 certificate under this Section:

7 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or
8 university with a bachelor's degree;

9 (2) have successfully completed the first phase of the
10 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in
11 this Section;

12 (3) have passed the tests of basic skills and subject
13 matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a; and

14 (4) (i) have been employed for a period of at least 5
15 years in an area requiring application of the individual's
16 education or (ii) have attained at least a cumulative grade
17 average of a "B" if the individual is assigned either to a
18 school district that has not met the annual measurable
19 objective for highly qualified teachers required by the
20 Illinois Revised Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT) Plan or to
21 a school district whose data filed with the State Board of
22 Education indicates that the district's poor and minority
23 students are taught by teachers who are not highly
24 qualified at a higher rate than other students; however,
25 this item (4) does not apply with respect to a provisional
26 alternative teaching certificate for teaching in schools

1 situated in a school district that is located in a city
2 having a population in excess of 500,000 inhabitants.
3 Assignment may be made under clause (ii) of this item (4)
4 only if the district superintendent and the exclusive
5 bargaining representative of the district's teachers, if
6 any, jointly agree to permit the assignment.

7 A person possessing a provisional alternative certificate
8 under this Section shall be treated as a regularly certified
9 teacher for purposes of compensation, benefits, and other terms
10 and conditions of employment afforded teachers in the school
11 who are members of a bargaining unit represented by an
12 exclusive bargaining representative, if any.

13 Until February 15, 2000, a standard alternative teaching
14 certificate, valid for 4 years for teaching in the schools and
15 renewable as provided in Section 21-14, shall be issued under
16 this Section 21-5b to persons who first complete the
17 requirements for the provisional alternative teaching
18 certificate and who at the time of applying for a standard
19 alternative teaching certificate under this Section have
20 successfully completed the second and third phases of the
21 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in this
22 Section. Alternatively, beginning February 15, 2000, at the end
23 of the 4-year validity period, persons who were issued a
24 standard alternative teaching certificate shall be eligible,
25 on the same basis as holders of an Initial Teaching Certificate
26 issued under subsection (b) of Section 21-2 of this Code, to

1 apply for a Standard Teaching Certificate, provided they meet
2 the requirements of subsection (c) of Section 21-2 of this Code
3 and further provided that a person who does not apply for and
4 receive a Standard Teaching Certificate shall be able to teach
5 only in schools situated in a school district that is located
6 in a city having a population in excess of 500,000 inhabitants.

7 Beginning February 15, 2000, persons who have completed the
8 requirements for a standard alternative teaching certificate
9 under this Section shall be issued an Initial Alternative
10 Teaching Certificate valid for 4 years of teaching and not
11 renewable. At the end of the 4-year validity period, these
12 persons shall be eligible, on the same basis as holders of an
13 Initial Teaching Certificate issued under subsection (b) of
14 Section 21-2 of this Code, to apply for a Standard Teaching
15 Certificate, provided they meet the requirements of subsection
16 (c) of Section 21-2.

17 Such alternative certification program shall be
18 implemented so that the first provisional alternative teaching
19 certificates issued under this Section are effective upon the
20 commencement of the 1997-1998 academic year and the first
21 standard alternative teaching certificates issued under this
22 Section are effective upon the commencement of the 1998-1999
23 academic year.

24 The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the
25 partnership or partnerships establishing such Alternative
26 Teacher Certification programs, shall adopt rules and

1 regulations that are consistent with this Section and that the
2 State Board of Education deems necessary to establish and
3 implement the program.

4 No one may be admitted to an alternative certification
5 program under this Section after September 1, 2013, and those
6 candidates who are admitted on or before September 1, 2013 must
7 complete the program before January 1, 2016 ~~2015~~.

8 This Section is repealed on January 1, 2016 ~~2015~~.

9 (Source: P.A. 96-862, eff. 1-15-10; 97-607, eff. 8-26-11;
10 97-702, eff. 6-25-12.)

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
12 becoming law.