

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 21-5b and 21-5c as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-5b)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2016)

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, 2014 ~~2013~~, and  
6 those alternative certification candidates who are admitted on  
7 or before September 1, 2014 ~~2013~~ must complete their coursework  
8 ~~the program~~ before January 1, 2016 ~~2015~~, ~~except that candidates~~  
9 ~~admitted to an alternative certification program at Governors~~  
10 ~~State University and participants in the Teacher Quality~~  
11 ~~Partnership Grant program must be admitted on or before March~~  
12 ~~31, 2014, complete their coursework on or before August 31,~~  
13 ~~2015,~~ and be entitled to certification on or before September  
14 30, 2016 ~~September 31, 2015~~. ~~An~~ The alternative certification  
15 program ~~at Governors State University~~ shall provide the State  
16 Board of Education with the names of the candidates who will be  
17 eligible for certification ~~under this exception~~.

18 This Section is repealed on January 1, 2017 ~~2016~~.

19 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11; 97-702, eff. 6-25-12;  
20 98-38, eff. 6-28-13.)

21 (105 ILCS 5/21-5c)

22 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2016)

23 Sec. 21-5c. Alternative route to teacher certification.  
24 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
25 Teacher Certification Board, shall establish and implement one

1 or more alternative route to teacher certification programs  
2 under which persons who meet the requirements of and  
3 successfully complete the programs established by this Section  
4 shall be issued an initial teaching certificate for teaching in  
5 schools in this State. The State Board of Education may approve  
6 a course of study that persons in such programs must  
7 successfully complete in order to satisfy one criterion for  
8 issuance of a certificate under this Section. The Alternative  
9 Route to Teacher Certification programs course of study must  
10 include content and skills which have been approved by the  
11 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
12 Teacher Certification Board, as meeting the requirement for  
13 State teacher certification.

14 Programs established under this Section shall be known as  
15 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification programs. The  
16 programs may be offered by a university that offers 4-year  
17 baccalaureate and masters degree programs and that is a  
18 recognized institution as defined in Section 21B-105 of this  
19 Code, by one or more not-for-profit organizations in the State,  
20 or a combination thereof. The programs shall be comprised of  
21 the following 3 phases: (a) a course of study offered on an  
22 intensive basis in education theory, instructional methods,  
23 and practice teaching; (b) the person's assignment to a  
24 full-time teaching position for one school year, including the  
25 designation of a mentor teacher to advise and assist the person  
26 with that teaching assignment; and (c) a comprehensive

1 assessment of the person's teaching performance by school  
2 officials and program participants and a recommendation by the  
3 program sponsor to the State Board of Education that the person  
4 be issued an initial teaching certificate. Successful  
5 completion of Alternative Route to Teacher Certification  
6 programs shall be deemed to satisfy any other practice or  
7 student teaching and subject matter requirements established  
8 by law.

9 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for  
10 one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,  
11 shall be issued under this Section 21-5c to persons who at the  
12 time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching  
13 certificate under this Section:

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

16 (2) have been employed for a period of at least 5 years  
17 in an area requiring application of the individual's  
18 education;

19 (3) have successfully completed the first phase of the  
20 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in  
21 this Section; and

22 (4) have passed the tests of basic skills and subject  
23 matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a.

24 An initial teaching certificate, valid for teaching in the  
25 common schools, shall be issued under Section 21-3 or 21-5 to  
26 persons who first complete the requirements for the provisional



1 alternative teaching certificate and who at the time of  
2 applying for an initial teaching certificate have successfully  
3 completed the second and third phases of the Alternative Route  
4 to Teacher Certification program as provided in this Section.

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

12 The State Board of Education may adopt rules and  
13 regulations that are consistent with this Section and that the  
14 State Board deems necessary to establish and implement the  
15 program.

16 No one may be admitted to an alternative certification  
17 program under this Section after September 1, 2014 ~~2013~~, and  
18 those alternative certification candidates who are admitted on  
19 or before June 30, 2014 ~~September 1, 2013~~ must complete their  
20 coursework ~~the program~~ before January 1, 2016 ~~2015~~, ~~except that~~  
21 ~~candidates admitted to an alternative certification program at~~  
22 ~~Governors State University and participants in the Teacher~~  
23 ~~Quality Partnership Grant program must be admitted on or before~~  
24 ~~March 31, 2014, complete their coursework on or before August~~  
25 ~~31, 2015,~~ and be entitled to certification on or before  
26 September 30, 2016 ~~September 31, 2015~~. An ~~The~~ alternative

1 certification program ~~at Governors State University~~ shall  
2 provide the State Board of Education with the names of the  
3 candidates who will be eligible for certification ~~under this~~  
4 ~~exception.~~

5 This Section is repealed on January 1, 2017 ~~2016~~.

6 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11; 97-702, eff. 6-25-12;  
7 98-38, eff. 6-28-13.)