



95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

HB2007

Introduced 2/26/2007, by Rep. Michael K. Smith

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the Teacher Certification Article of the School Code. Repeals provisions concerning the Alternative Teacher Certification Program and the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification Program. Provides instead that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board, shall establish and implement an Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program under which persons who meet the requirements of and successfully complete the program shall be issued an initial teaching certificate for teaching in the schools. Includes provisions concerning who may offer the program, the program course of study, the phases of the program, the issuance of a provisional alternative teaching certificate and an initial teaching certificate, and an annual report to the State Board. Repeals provisions concerning resident teacher certificates and the Illinois Teacher Corps. Provides instead that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board, shall establish and implement a Resident Teacher Certification program under which persons who meet the requirements of and successfully complete the program and serve as a resident teacher for 4 years shall be issued a standard teaching certificate for teaching in the schools. Includes provisions concerning who may offer the program, the phases of the program, the issuance of a resident teacher certificate and an initial and standard teaching certificate, completion of an internship in lieu of professional experience, preparation for the teaching profession, master's degree completion, the hiring of program candidates, school district support to candidates, and an annual report to the State Board. Effective July 1, 2007.

LRB095 09479 NHT 29677 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 adding Sections
5 21-5f and 21-11.5 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-5f new)

7 Sec. 21-5f. Alternative route to teacher certification.

8 (a) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
9 State Teacher Certification Board, shall establish and
10 implement an Alternative Route to Teacher Certification
11 program under which persons who meet the requirements of and
12 successfully complete the program established by this Section
13 shall be issued an initial teaching certificate for teaching in
14 the schools.

15 (b) The program may be offered by a recognized institution
16 that offers 4-year baccalaureate and master's degree programs,
17 as defined in Section 21-21 of this Code. A partnership may be
18 formed with one or more school districts and one or more
19 not-for-profit organizations in this State that support
20 excellence in teaching. The program course of study must
21 include the content and skills contained in the recognized
22 institution's current program for State certification that has
23 been approved by the State Board of Education, in consultation

1 with the State Teacher Certification Board.

2 (c) The program must be comprised of the following 3
3 phases:

4 (1) the first phase is the course of study offered on
5 an intensive basis in educational theory, instructional
6 methods, and practice teaching;

7 (2) the second phase is the person's assignment to a
8 full-time teaching position for one school year, including
9 the designation of a trained mentor teacher to advise and
10 assist the person with that teaching assignment; and

11 (3) the third phase is a comprehensive assessment of
12 the person's teaching performance by school officials and
13 program participants, including passage of the assessment
14 of professional teaching test, and a recommendation by the
15 institution of higher education to the State Board of
16 Education that the person be issued an initial teaching
17 certificate.

18 Successful completion of the Alternative Route to Teacher
19 Certification program shall be deemed to satisfy any other
20 practice or student teaching and subject matter requirements
21 established by law.

22 (d) An initial teaching certificate, valid for teaching in
23 the common schools, shall be issued under Section 21-2 of this
24 Code to persons who first complete the requirements for the
25 provisional alternative teaching certificate and who at the
26 time of applying for an initial teaching certificate have

1 successfully completed the second and third phases of the
2 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program, as
3 provided in subsection (c) of this Section.

4 (e) A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid
5 for one year of teaching in the common schools and not
6 renewable, shall be issued under this Section to persons who at
7 the time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching
8 certificate under this Section have done the following:

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

11 (2) have successfully completed the first phase of the
12 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program, as
13 provided in subsection (c) of this Section; and

14 (3) have passed the tests of basic skills and subject
15 matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a of this Code.

16 A person possessing a provisional alternative teaching
17 certificate under this Section shall be treated as a regularly
18 certified teacher for purposes of compensation, benefits, and
19 other terms and conditions of employment afforded teachers in
20 the school who are members of a bargaining unit represented by
21 an exclusive bargaining representative, if any.

22 (f) The Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program
23 shall be implemented so that the first provisional alternative
24 teaching certificates issued under this Section are effective
25 upon the commencement of the 2007-2008 school year and the
26 first initial teaching certificates issued under this Section

1 are effective upon the commencement of the 2008-2009 school
2 year. The institution of higher education shall submit an
3 annual report to the State Board of Education on the status of
4 the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program,
5 including data on program candidates and program completers for
6 5 years following completion of the program and recommendation
7 for the initial teaching certificate.

8 (g) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that are
9 consistent with this Section and that the State Board of
10 Education deems necessary to establish and implement the
11 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program.

12 (105 ILCS 5/21-11.5 new)

13 Sec. 21-11.5. Resident teacher certification.

14 (a) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
15 State Teacher Certification Board, shall establish and
16 implement a Resident Teacher Certification program under which
17 persons who meet the requirements of and successfully complete
18 the program established by this Section and serve as a resident
19 teacher for 4 years shall be issued a standard teaching
20 certificate for teaching in the schools.

21 (b) The program may be offered by a recognized institution
22 that offers 4-year baccalaureate and master's degree-approved
23 teacher preparation programs and in partnership with one or
24 more school districts. The program must be comprised of 2
25 phases as follows:

1 (1) the first phase is an intensive course of study
2 that is aligned with the higher education-approved program
3 of study and includes educational theory, instructional
4 methods, and practice teaching and a compressive
5 performance assessment; and

6 (2) the second phase is completion of 4 years of
7 successful teaching under the direction of a certified
8 teacher who serves as the resident teacher's mentor and
9 completion of a master's degree in education.

10 (c) A standard teaching certificate, valid for teaching in
11 the common schools, shall be issued under Section 21-2 of this
12 Code to persons who complete the requirements for the resident
13 teacher certificate, pass all appropriate tests, earn a
14 master's degree in education, and have completed 4 years of
15 successful teaching. An initial teaching certificate, valid
16 for teaching in the common schools, shall be issued under
17 Section 21-2 of this Code to persons who complete the
18 requirements for the resident teacher certificate, pass all
19 appropriate tests, and earn a master's degree in education.

20 (d) A resident teacher certificate, valid for 4 years of
21 teaching in the common schools and not renewable, shall be
22 issued under this Section to persons who, at the time of
23 applying for the resident teacher certificate under this
24 Section, have done the following:

25 (1) graduated from a regionally accredited institution
26 of higher education with a bachelor's degree and at least a

1 3.0 out of a 4.0 grade point average or its equivalent;

2 (2) completed a minimum of 5 years of professional
3 experience in the area the person wishes to teach;

4 (3) successfully completed the first phase of the
5 Resident Teacher Certification program, as provided in
6 subsection (b) of this Section;

7 (4) passed the basic skills test and applicable
8 content-area test required by Section 21-1a of this Code;
9 and

10 (5) enrolled in an approved Master's in Education
11 degree program.

12 If an individual does not possess 5 years of professional
13 experience, the individual may qualify for admission to the
14 Resident Teacher Certification program by completing a
15 one-year internship teacher preparation program with a school
16 district. The one-year internship must be developed
17 collaboratively by the school district and the higher education
18 institution and be approved by the State Board of Education, in
19 consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board.

20 The higher education institution shall work
21 collaboratively with school districts to academically prepare
22 candidates for the teaching profession. The master's degree in
23 education must be completed in 3 summers and 2 academic years
24 and lead to an initial teaching certificate.

25 (e) Partnering school districts may hire program
26 candidates who hold a resident teacher certificate. A resident

1 teacher may teach only under the direction of a certified
2 teacher who serves as the resident teacher's mentor. School
3 districts must provide a minimum of the following supports to
4 the candidates:

5 (1) salary, benefits, and other terms and conditions of
6 employment afforded teachers in the school and as
7 negotiated through teacher contracts;

8 (2) a certified and trained mentor teacher who will
9 provide guidance to one or more candidates under the
10 program developed collaboratively by the school district
11 and the higher education institution;

12 (3) a minimum of quarterly evaluations by a designated
13 school administrator;

14 (4) written and signed documentation outlining the
15 school district's support system at the time the program
16 proposal is submitted to the State Board of Education for
17 approval.

18 (f) The higher education institution shall submit an annual
19 report to the State Board of Education on the status of the
20 Resident Teacher Certification program, including data on
21 program candidates and program completers for 5 years following
22 completion of the program and recommendation for the initial or
23 standard teaching certificate.

24 (g) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that are
25 consistent with this Section and that the State Board of
26 Education deems necessary to establish and implement the

1 Resident Teacher Certification program.

2 (105 ILCS 5/21-5b rep.)

3 (105 ILCS 5/21-5c rep.)

4 (105 ILCS 5/21-11.3 rep.)

5 (105 ILCS 5/21-11.4 rep.)

6 Section 10. The School Code is amended by repealing
7 Sections 21-5b, 21-5c, 21-11.3, and 21-11.4.

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
9 2007.

1 INDEX

2 Statutes amended in order of appearance

3 105 ILCS 5/21-5f new

4 105 ILCS 5/21-11.5 new

5 105 ILCS 5/21-5b rep.

6 105 ILCS 5/21-5c rep.

7 105 ILCS 5/21-11.3 rep.

8 105 ILCS 5/21-11.4 rep.