



Rep. Monique D. Davis

**Filed: 5/29/2011**

09700HB0601ham001

LRB097 03433 RPM 56266 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 601

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 601 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 21-1a 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 an assessment of professional teaching, and a test of subject  
15 matter knowledge, provided that a person who passed another  
16 state's test of basic skills as a condition of certification or

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

23 (b) Except as provided in Section 34-6, the provisions of  
24 subsection (a) of this Section shall apply equally in any  
25 school district subject to Article 34, provided that the State  
26 Board of Education shall determine which certificates issued

1 under Sections 34-8.1 and 34-83 prior to July 1, 1988 are  
2 comparable to any early childhood certificate, elementary  
3 school certificate, special certificate, high school  
4 certificate, school service personnel certificate or  
5 administrative certificate issued under this Article as of July  
6 1, 1988.

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

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

21 Any student who intends to enroll in a teacher preparation  
22 program at a recognized teacher training institution shall, at  
23 any time within that student's first 2 years of enrollment at  
24 an institution of higher learning, take the basic skills test  
25 and must pass the basic skills test with a score of at least  
26 55% in all categories. ~~Beginning with the 2002-2003 academic~~

1 ~~year, a student may not enroll in a teacher preparation program~~  
2 ~~at a recognized teacher training institution until he or she~~  
3 ~~has passed the basic skills test.~~

4 Beginning on the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
5 the 94th General Assembly, prior to completing an approved  
6 teacher preparation program, a preservice education candidate  
7 must satisfactorily pass the test of subject matter knowledge  
8 in the discipline in which he or she will be certified to  
9 teach. The teacher preparation program may require passage of  
10 the test of subject matter knowledge at any time during the  
11 program, including prior to student teaching.

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

1 State Board of Education shall also set a passing score for the  
2 tests.

3 (f) The State Teacher Certification Board may issue a  
4 nonrenewable temporary certificate between July 1, 1988 and  
5 August 31, 1988 to individuals who have taken the tests of  
6 basic skills and subject matter knowledge prescribed by this  
7 Section but have not received such test scores by August 31,  
8 1988. Such temporary certificates shall expire on December 31,  
9 1988.

10 (g) Beginning February 15, 2000, the State Board of  
11 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
12 Certification Board, shall implement and administer a new  
13 system of certification for teachers in the State of Illinois.  
14 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
15 Teacher Certification Board, shall design and implement a  
16 system of examinations and various other criteria which shall  
17 be required prior to the issuance of Initial Teaching  
18 Certificates and Standard Teaching Certificates. These  
19 examinations and indicators shall be based on national and  
20 State professional teaching standards, as determined by the  
21 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
22 Teacher Certification Board. The State Board of Education may  
23 adopt any and all regulations necessary to implement and  
24 administer this Section.

25 (h) The State Board of Education shall report to the  
26 Illinois General Assembly and the Governor with

1 recommendations for further changes and improvements to the  
2 teacher certification system no later than July 1, 1999 and on  
3 an annual basis until July 1, 2001.  
4 (Source: P.A. 96-689, eff. 8-25-09.)"