



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB6128

Introduced 2/11/2016, by Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-20

Amends the educator licensure provisions of the School Code. Allows persons to have completed a comparable preparation program in another state to earn a Professional Educator License. Provides that required testing under certain provisions of the Code includes an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness approved by the State Superintendent of Education in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board completed by the end of the second year of employment as a teacher of record for Professional Educator License applicants who are holders of an Educator License with Stipulations. Requires applicants for an Educator License with Stipulations to satisfy the requirements for a Professional Educator License.

LRB099 19907 MLM 44306 b

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 21B-20 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-20)

7 Sec. 21B-20. Types of licenses. Before July 1, 2013, the
8 State Board of Education shall implement a system of educator
9 licensure, whereby individuals employed in school districts
10 who are required to be licensed must have one of the following
11 licenses: (i) a professional educator license; (ii) a
12 professional educator license with stipulations; or (iii) a
13 substitute teaching license. References in law regarding
14 individuals certified or certificated or required to be
15 certified or certificated under Article 21 of this Code shall
16 also include individuals licensed or required to be licensed
17 under this Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June
18 30 following one full year of the license being issued.

19 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
20 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such
21 rules as may be necessary to govern the requirements for
22 licenses and endorsements under this Section.

23 (1) Professional Educator License. Persons who (i)

1 have successfully completed an approved educator
2 preparation program and are recommended for licensure by
3 the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation
4 program or comparable preparation program in another
5 state, (ii) have successfully completed the required
6 testing under Section 21B-30 of this Code, including an
7 evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness, as set
8 forth in Section 25.720 of Title 23 of the Illinois
9 Administrative Code and approved by the State
10 Superintendent of Education in consultation with the State
11 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, completed by the
12 end of the second year of employment as a teacher of record
13 for applicants who are holders of an Educator License with
14 Stipulations, (iii) have successfully completed coursework
15 on the psychology of, the identification of, and the
16 methods of instruction for the exceptional child,
17 including without limitation children with learning
18 disabilities, (iv) have successfully completed coursework
19 in methods of reading and reading in the content area, and
20 (v) have met all other criteria established by rule of the
21 State Board of Education shall be issued a Professional
22 Educator License. All Professional Educator Licenses are
23 valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of the
24 license being issued. The Professional Educator License
25 shall be endorsed with specific areas and grade levels in
26 which the individual is eligible to practice.

1 Individuals can receive subsequent endorsements on the
2 Professional Educator License. Subsequent endorsements
3 shall require a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework
4 in the endorsement area, unless otherwise specified by
5 rule, and passage of the applicable content area test.

6 (2) Educator License with Stipulations. An Educator
7 License with Stipulations shall be issued to persons who
8 have satisfied the requirements for a Professional
9 Educator License under paragraph (1) of this Section but
10 with an endorsement that limits the license holder to one
11 particular position or does not require completion of an
12 approved educator program or both.

13 An individual with an Educator License with
14 Stipulations must not be employed by a school district or
15 any other entity to replace any presently employed teacher
16 who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason.

17 An Educator License with Stipulations may be issued
18 with the following endorsements:

19 (A) Provisional educator. A provisional educator
20 endorsement in a specific content area or areas on an
21 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an
22 applicant who holds an educator license with a minimum
23 of 15 semester hours in content coursework from another
24 state, U.S. territory, or foreign country and who, at
25 the time of applying for an Illinois license, does not
26 meet the minimum requirements under Section 21B-35 of

1 this Code, but does, at a minimum, meet the following
2 requirements:

3 (i) Holds the equivalent of a minimum of a
4 bachelor's degree, unless a master's degree is
5 required for the endorsement, from a regionally
6 accredited college or university or, for
7 individuals educated in a country other than the
8 United States, the equivalent of a minimum of a
9 bachelor's degree issued in the United States,
10 unless a master's degree is required for the
11 endorsement.

12 (ii) Has passed or passes a test of basic
13 skills and content area test, as required by
14 Section 21B-30 of this Code, prior to or within one
15 year after issuance of the provisional educator
16 endorsement on the Educator License with
17 Stipulations. If an individual who holds an
18 Educator License with Stipulations endorsed for
19 provisional educator has not passed a test of basic
20 skills and applicable content area test or tests
21 within one year after issuance of the endorsement,
22 the endorsement shall expire on June 30 following
23 one full year of the endorsement being issued. If
24 such an individual has passed the test of basic
25 skills and applicable content area test or tests
26 either prior to issuance of the endorsement or

1 within one year after issuance of the endorsement,
2 the endorsement is valid until June 30 immediately
3 following 2 years of the license being issued,
4 during which time any and all coursework
5 deficiencies must be met and any and all additional
6 testing deficiencies must be met.

7 In addition, a provisional educator endorsement for
8 principals or superintendents may be issued if the
9 individual meets the requirements set forth in
10 subdivisions (1) and (3) of subsection (b-5) of Section
11 21B-35 of this Code. Applicants who have not been
12 entitled by an Illinois-approved educator preparation
13 program at an Illinois institution of higher education
14 shall not receive a provisional educator endorsement
15 if the person completed an alternative licensure
16 program in another state, unless the program has been
17 determined to be equivalent to Illinois program
18 requirements.

19 Notwithstanding any other requirements of this
20 Section, a service member or spouse of a service member
21 may obtain a Professional Educator License with
22 Stipulations, and a provisional educator endorsement
23 in a specific content area or areas, if he or she holds
24 a valid teaching certificate or license in good
25 standing from another state, meets the qualifications
26 of educators outlined in Section 21B-15 of this Code,

1 and has not engaged in any misconduct that would
2 prohibit an individual from obtaining a license
3 pursuant to Illinois law, including without limitation
4 any administrative rules of the State Board of
5 Education.

6 In this Section, "service member" means any person
7 who, at the time of application under this Section, is
8 an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces
9 or any reserve component of the United States Armed
10 Forces or the National Guard of any state,
11 commonwealth, or territory of the United States or the
12 District of Columbia.

13 A provisional educator endorsement is valid until
14 June 30 immediately following 2 years of the license
15 being issued, provided that any remaining testing and
16 coursework deficiencies are met as set forth in this
17 Section. Failure to satisfy all stated deficiencies
18 shall mean the individual, including any service
19 member or spouse who has obtained a Professional
20 Educator License with Stipulations and a provisional
21 educator endorsement in a specific content area or
22 areas, is ineligible to receive a Professional
23 Educator License at that time. An Educator License with
24 Stipulations endorsed for provisional educator shall
25 not be renewed for individuals who hold an Educator
26 License with Stipulations and who have held a position

1 in a public school or non-public school recognized by
2 the State Board of Education.

3 (B) Alternative provisional educator. An
4 alternative provisional educator endorsement on an
5 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an
6 applicant who, at the time of applying for the
7 endorsement, has done all of the following:

8 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited
9 college or university with a minimum of a
10 bachelor's degree.

11 (ii) Successfully completed the first phase of
12 the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for
13 Teachers, as described in Section 21B-50 of this
14 Code.

15 (iii) Passed a test of basic skills and content
16 area test, as required under Section 21B-30 of this
17 Code.

18 The alternative provisional educator endorsement
19 is valid for 2 years of teaching and may be renewed for
20 a third year by an individual meeting the requirements
21 set forth in Section 21B-50 of this Code.

22 (C) Alternative provisional superintendent. An
23 alternative provisional superintendent endorsement on
24 an Educator License with Stipulations entitles the
25 holder to serve only as a superintendent or assistant
26 superintendent in a school district's central office.

1 This endorsement may only be issued to an applicant
2 who, at the time of applying for the endorsement, has
3 done all of the following:

4 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited
5 college or university with a minimum of a master's
6 degree in a management field other than education.

7 (ii) Been employed for a period of at least 5
8 years in a management level position in a field
9 other than education.

10 (iii) Successfully completed the first phase
11 of an alternative route to superintendent
12 endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55
13 of this Code.

14 (iv) Passed a test of basic skills and content
15 area tests required under Section 21B-30 of this
16 Code.

17 The endorsement may be registered for 2 fiscal
18 years in order to complete one full year of serving as
19 a superintendent or assistant superintendent.

20 (D) Resident teacher endorsement. A resident
21 teacher endorsement on an Educator License with
22 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who, at the
23 time of applying for the endorsement, has done all of
24 the following:

25 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited
26 institution of higher education with a minimum of a

1 bachelor's degree.

2 (ii) Enrolled in an approved Illinois educator
3 preparation program.

4 (iii) Passed a test of basic skills and content
5 area test, as required under Section 21B-30 of this
6 Code.

7 The resident teacher endorsement on an Educator
8 License with Stipulations is valid for 4 years of
9 teaching and shall not be renewed.

10 A resident teacher may teach only under the
11 direction of a licensed teacher, who shall act as the
12 resident mentor teacher, and may not teach in place of
13 a licensed teacher. A resident teacher endorsement on
14 an Educator License with Stipulations shall no longer
15 be valid after June 30, 2017.

16 (E) Career and technical educator. A career and
17 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License
18 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who has
19 a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework from a
20 regionally accredited institution of higher education
21 and has a minimum of 2,000 hours of experience outside
22 of education in each area to be taught.

23 The career and technical educator endorsement on
24 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until
25 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the
26 endorsement being issued and may be renewed. For

1 individuals who were issued the career and technical
2 educator endorsement on an Educator License with
3 Stipulations on or after January 1, 2015, the license
4 may be renewed if the individual passes a test of basic
5 skills, as required under Section 21B-30 of this Code.

6 (F) Part-time provisional career and technical
7 educator or provisional career and technical educator.
8 A part-time provisional career and technical educator
9 endorsement or a provisional career and technical
10 educator endorsement on an Educator License with
11 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who has a
12 minimum of 8,000 hours of work experience in the skill
13 for which the applicant is seeking the endorsement. It
14 is the responsibility of each employing school board
15 and regional office of education to provide
16 verification, in writing, to the State Superintendent
17 of Education at the time the application is submitted
18 that no qualified teacher holding a Professional
19 Educator License or an Educator License with
20 Stipulations with a career and technical educator
21 endorsement is available and that actual circumstances
22 require such issuance.

23 The provisional career and technical educator
24 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations
25 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of
26 the endorsement being issued and may be renewed only

1 one time for 5 years. For individuals who were issued
2 the provisional career and technical educator
3 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations
4 on or after January 1, 2015, the license may be renewed
5 one time if the individual passes a test of basic
6 skills, as required under Section 21B-30 of this Code,
7 and has completed a minimum of 20 semester hours from a
8 regionally accredited institution.

9 A part-time provisional career and technical
10 educator endorsement on an Educator License with
11 Stipulations may be issued for teaching no more than 2
12 courses of study for grades 6 through 12. The part-time
13 provisional career and technical educator endorsement
14 on an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until
15 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the
16 endorsement being issued and may be renewed for 5 years
17 if the individual makes application for renewal.

18 (G) Transitional bilingual educator. A
19 transitional bilingual educator endorsement on an
20 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued for
21 the purpose of providing instruction in accordance
22 with Article 14C of this Code to an applicant who
23 provides satisfactory evidence that he or she meets all
24 of the following requirements:

25 (i) Possesses adequate speaking, reading, and
26 writing ability in the language other than English

1 in which transitional bilingual education is
2 offered.

3 (ii) Has the ability to successfully
4 communicate in English.

5 (iii) Either possessed, within 5 years
6 previous to his or her applying for a transitional
7 bilingual educator endorsement, a valid and
8 comparable teaching certificate or comparable
9 authorization issued by a foreign country or holds
10 a degree from an institution of higher learning in
11 a foreign country that the State Educator
12 Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be
13 the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a
14 regionally accredited institution of higher
15 learning in the United States.

16 A transitional bilingual educator endorsement
17 shall be valid for prekindergarten through grade 12, is
18 valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of
19 the endorsement being issued, and shall not be renewed.

20 Persons holding a transitional bilingual educator
21 endorsement shall not be employed to replace any
22 presently employed teacher who otherwise would not be
23 replaced for any reason.

24 (H) Language endorsement. In an effort to
25 alleviate the shortage of teachers speaking a language
26 other than English in the public schools, an individual

1 who holds an Educator License with Stipulations may
2 also apply for a language endorsement, provided that
3 the applicant provides satisfactory evidence that he
4 or she meets all of the following requirements:

5 (i) Holds a transitional bilingual
6 endorsement.

7 (ii) Has demonstrated proficiency in the
8 language for which the endorsement is to be issued
9 by passing the applicable language content test
10 required by the State Board of Education.

11 (iii) Holds a bachelor's degree or higher from
12 a regionally accredited institution of higher
13 education or, for individuals educated in a
14 country other than the United States, holds a
15 degree from an institution of higher learning in a
16 foreign country that the State Educator
17 Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be
18 the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a
19 regionally accredited institution of higher
20 learning in the United States.

21 (iv) Has passed a test of basic skills, as
22 required under Section 21B-30 of this Code.

23 A language endorsement on an Educator License with
24 Stipulations is valid for prekindergarten through
25 grade 12 for the same validity period as the
26 individual's transitional bilingual educator

1 endorsement on the Educator License with Stipulations
2 and shall not be renewed.

3 (I) Visiting international educator. A visiting
4 international educator endorsement on an Educator
5 License with Stipulations may be issued to an
6 individual who is being recruited by a particular
7 school district that conducts formal recruitment
8 programs outside of the United States to secure the
9 services of qualified teachers and who meets all of the
10 following requirements:

11 (i) Holds the equivalent of a minimum of a
12 bachelor's degree issued in the United States.

13 (ii) Has been prepared as a teacher at the
14 grade level for which he or she will be employed.

15 (iii) Has adequate content knowledge in the
16 subject to be taught.

17 (iv) Has an adequate command of the English
18 language.

19 A holder of a visiting international educator
20 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations
21 shall be permitted to teach in bilingual education
22 programs in the language that was the medium of
23 instruction in his or her teacher preparation program,
24 provided that he or she passes the English Language
25 Proficiency Examination or another test of writing
26 skills in English identified by the State Board of

1 Education, in consultation with the State Educator
2 Preparation and Licensure Board.

3 A visiting international educator endorsement on
4 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 3
5 years and shall not be renewed.

6 (J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional
7 educator endorsement on an Educator License with
8 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who holds a
9 high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and
10 either holds an associate's degree or a minimum of 60
11 semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited
12 institution of higher education or has passed a test of
13 basic skills required under Section 21B-30 of this
14 Code. The paraprofessional educator endorsement is
15 valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of
16 the endorsement being issued and may be renewed through
17 application and payment of the appropriate fee, as
18 required under Section 21B-40 of this Code. An
19 individual who holds only a paraprofessional educator
20 endorsement is not subject to additional requirements
21 in order to renew the endorsement.

22 (K) Chief school business official. A chief school
23 business official endorsement on an Educator License
24 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who
25 qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2
26 years of full-time administrative experience in school

1 business management or 2 years of university-approved
2 practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester
3 hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the
4 State Board of Education for the preparation of school
5 business administrators and by passage of the
6 applicable State tests, including a test of basic
7 skills and applicable content area test.

8 The chief school business official endorsement may
9 also be affixed to the Educator License with
10 Stipulations of any holder who qualifies by having a
11 master's degree in business administration, finance,
12 or accounting and who completes an additional 6
13 semester hours of internship in school business
14 management from a regionally accredited institution of
15 higher education and passes the applicable State
16 tests, including a test of basic skills and applicable
17 content area test. This endorsement shall be required
18 for any individual employed as a chief school business
19 official.

20 The chief school business official endorsement on
21 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until
22 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the
23 endorsement being issued and may be renewed if the
24 license holder completes renewal requirements as
25 required for individuals who hold a Professional
26 Educator License endorsed for chief school business

1 official under Section 21B-45 of this Code and such
2 rules as may be adopted by the State Board of
3 Education.

4 (3) Substitute Teaching License. A Substitute Teaching
5 License may be issued to qualified applicants for
6 substitute teaching in all grades of the public schools,
7 prekindergarten through grade 12. Substitute Teaching
8 Licenses are not eligible for endorsements. Applicants for
9 a Substitute Teaching License must hold a bachelor's degree
10 or higher from a regionally accredited institution of
11 higher education.

12 Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years and
13 may be renewed if the individual has passed a test of basic
14 skills, as authorized under Section 21B-30 of this Code. An
15 individual who has passed a test of basic skills for the
16 first licensure renewal is not required to retake the test
17 again for further renewals.

18 Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for substitute
19 teaching in every county of this State. If an individual
20 has had his or her Professional Educator License or
21 Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked or
22 has not met the renewal requirements for licensure, then
23 that individual is not eligible to obtain a Substitute
24 Teaching License.

25 A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a
26 licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing

1 board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under
2 contract because of an emergency situation, then a district
3 may employ a substitute teacher for no longer than 30
4 calendar days per each vacant position in the district if
5 the district notifies the appropriate regional office of
6 education within 5 business days after the employment of
7 the substitute teacher in the emergency situation. An
8 emergency situation is one in which an unforeseen vacancy
9 has occurred and (i) a teacher is unable to fulfill his or
10 her contractual duties or (ii) teacher capacity needs of
11 the district exceed previous indications, and the district
12 is actively engaged in advertising to hire a fully licensed
13 teacher for the vacant position.

14 There is no limit on the number of days that a
15 substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,
16 provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer
17 than 90 school days for any one licensed teacher under
18 contract in the same school year. A substitute teacher who
19 holds a Professional Educator License or Educator License
20 with Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school
21 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the
22 same school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on
23 the number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do
24 not apply to any school district operating under Article 34
25 of this Code.

26 (Source: P.A. 98-28, eff. 7-1-13; 98-751, eff. 1-1-15; 99-35,

1 eff. 1-1-16; 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-143, eff. 7-27-15; revised
2 10-14-15.)