- 1 AN ACT in relation to teacher certification.
- 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
- 5 Section 21-5c as follows:
- 6 (105 ILCS 5/21-5c)
- 7 Sec. 21-5c. Alternative route to teacher certification.
- 8 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
- 9 Teacher Certification Board, shall establish and implement an
- 10 alternative route to teacher certification program under
- 11 which persons who meet the requirements of and successfully
- 12 complete the program established by this Section shall be
- 13 issued an initial teaching certificate for teaching in
- 14 schools in this State. The State Board of Education shall
- 15 approve a course of study that persons in the program must
- 16 successfully complete in order to satisfy one criterion for
- 17 issuance of a certificate under this Section. The
- 18 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program course of
- 19 study must include the current content and skills contained
- 20 in a university's current courses for State certification
- 21 which have been approved by the State Board of Education, in
- 22 consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board, as
- 23 the requirement for State teacher certification.
- The program established under this Section shall be known
- 25 as the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program.
- 26 The program may be offered in conjunction with one or more
- 27 not-for-profit organizations in <u>this</u> the State. The program
- shall be comprised of the following 3 phases: (a) a course of
- 29 study offered on an intensive basis in education theory,
- 30 instructional methods, and practice teaching; (b) the
- 31 person's assignment to a full-time teaching position for one

1 school year, including the designation of a mentor teacher to

advise and assist the person with that teaching assignment;

- and (c) a comprehensive assessment of the person's teaching
- 4 performance by school officials and program participants and
- 5 a recommendation by the institution of higher education to
- 6 the State Board of Education that the person be issued an
- 7 initial teaching certificate. Successful completion of the
- 8 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program shall be
- 9 deemed to satisfy any other practice or student teaching and
- 10 subject matter requirements established by law.
- 11 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for
- one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,
- 13 shall be issued under this Section 21-5c to persons who at
- 14 the time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching
- 15 certificate under this Section:

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- 16 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or
- 17 university with a bachelor's degree;
- 18 (2) have been employed for a period of at least 5
- 19 years in an area requiring application of the
- individual's education;
- 21 (3) have successfully completed the first phase of
- the Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided
- in this Section; and
- 24 (4) have passed the tests of basic skills and
- subject matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a.
- 26 An initial teaching certificate, valid for teaching in
- 27 the common schools, shall be issued under Section 21-3 or
- 28 21-5 to persons who first complete the requirements for the
- 29 provisional alternative teaching certificate and who at the
- 30 time of applying for an initial teaching certificate have
- 31 successfully completed the second and third phases of the
- 32 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program as
- 33 provided in this Section.
- 34 A person possessing a provisional alternative certificate

- or an initial teaching certificate earned under this Section
- 2 shall be treated as a regularly certified teacher for
- 3 purposes of compensation, benefits, and other terms and
- 4 conditions of employment afforded teachers in the school who
- 5 are members of a bargaining unit represented by an exclusive
- 6 bargaining representative, if any.
- 7 The State Board of Education may adopt rules and
- 8 regulations that are consistent with this Section and that
- 9 the State Board deems necessary to establish and implement
- 10 the program.
- 11 (Source: P.A. 90-548, eff. 1-1-98.)