

Senate Bill No. 218

(By Senators Laird, Foster, Edgell, Plymale, Wills, Boley, Unger,
Miller and Stollings)

[Introduced January 17, 2012; referred to the Committee on
Education.]

**Interim
Bill**

A BILL to amend and reenact §18A-3-1a and §18A-3-1b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to alternative programs for teacher education; providing definitions and defining "approved education provider"; generally reorganizing section, updating terms and eliminating duplicative language; eliminating requirement to post position of alternative program teacher each year prior to rehiring; authorizing alternative methods of instructional delivery and candidate supervision and modifying existing methods; modifying reporting and recommendation requirements; and requiring certain legislative rules.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §18A-3-1a and §18A-3-1b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3. TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, PROFESSIONAL

1 **DEVELOPMENT.**2 **§18A-3-1a. Alternative programs for the education of teachers;**
3 **legislative rules required.**

4 ~~(a) By August 15, 2005, the state board, after consultation~~
5 ~~with the Secretary of Education and the Arts, shall promulgate~~
6 ~~rules in accordance with the provisions of article three-b, chapter~~
7 ~~twenty-nine-a of this code for the approval and operation of~~
8 ~~teacher education programs which are an alternative to the regular~~
9 ~~college or university programs for the education of teachers.~~

10 (a) Definitions. -- For the purposes of this section, the
11 following terms have the meaning ascribed to them, unless the
12 context in which a term is used clearly requires a different
13 meaning:

14 (1) "Alternative program teacher certificate" means a
15 certificate issued for one year to a candidate who does not meet
16 the standard educational requirements for teacher certification;

17 (2) "Approved education provider" means a partnership between
18 one or more schools, school districts or regional educational
19 service agencies and an institution of higher education in this
20 state with a regionally accredited program for the education of
21 professional educators approved by the state board or an entity
22 affiliated with such an institution's approved program, that has
23 submitted to the state board a plan and agreement between the
24 organizations for the delivery of an alternative program in

1 accordance with this section, and the state board has approved the
2 plan and agreement; and

3 (3) "Area of critical need and shortage" means an opening in
4 an established, existing or newly-created position which has been
5 posted at least two times in accordance with section seven-a,
6 article four of this chapter and for which no fully-qualified
7 applicant has been employed.

8 (b) Establishment of alternative education programs. -- After
9 consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Arts and the
10 Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission, the state
11 board shall promulgate a legislative rule or rules in accordance
12 with article three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to
13 implement the provisions of this section. The proposed rule or
14 rules shall be submitted to the Legislative Oversight Commission on
15 Education Accountability for review prior to adoption. The rule or
16 rules shall include, but are not limited to, the following issues:

17 (1) Separate procedures for the approval and operation of each
18 of the alternative teacher education programs as provided in this
19 section:

20 (A) These programs are an alternative to the regular college
21 or university programs for the education of teachers and may only
22 be offered by approved education providers; and

23 (B) Each program is separate from other programs established
24 by this section;

1 (2) Procedures for approving an approved education provider as
2 defined in this section. Approval is required prior to
3 implementation the provider's program leading to certification to
4 teach in the public schools of this state;

5 (3) Provisions for setting tuition charges to offset program
6 costs;

7 (4) The recommendation to rehire an alternative education
8 program teacher, is subject to satisfactory progress in the
9 applicable alternative education program by the holder of the
10 alternative program certificate; and

11 (5) When making decisions affecting the hiring of a teacher
12 authorized to teach under an alternative program certificate as
13 provided in this section, a county board shall give preference to
14 applicants who hold a valid West Virginia professional teaching
15 certificate.

16 (c) *Alternative teacher education program.* --

17 (1) To participate in an approved alternative teacher
18 education program, the candidate must hold an alternative program
19 teacher certificate issued by the state superintendent and endorsed
20 for the instructional field in which the candidate seeks
21 certification. ~~An alternative program teacher certificate is a~~
22 ~~certificate issued for one year to a candidate who does not meet~~
23 ~~the standard educational requirements for certification.~~

24 (2) The certificate may be renewed ~~no more than two times~~

1 twice and no individual may hold an alternative program teacher
2 certificate for a period exceeding three years. The alternative
3 program teacher certificate ~~shall be considered~~ is equivalent to a
4 professional teaching certificate for the purpose of ~~the issuance~~
5 of issuing a continuing contract.

6 (3) To be eligible for an alternative program teacher
7 certificate, an applicant shall meet the following criteria:

8 ~~(1)~~ (A) Possess at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally
9 accredited institution of higher education in a discipline taught
10 in the public schools, except that the rules established ~~by the~~
11 board pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may exempt from
12 this requirement candidates for alternative certification to teach
13 in selected vocational and technical areas who have at least ten
14 years' experience in the subject field; ~~from this requirement~~

15 ~~(2)~~ (B) Pass ~~an appropriate state board approved~~ the same
16 basic skills and subject matter test or tests required by the state
17 board for traditional program candidates to become certified in the
18 area for which licensure is being sought;

19 ~~(3)~~ (C) ~~Be a citizen of the~~ Hold United States citizenship; be
20 of good moral character and be physically, mentally and emotionally
21 qualified to perform the duties of a teacher; ~~and have attained~~

22 (D) Attain the age of eighteen years on or before October 1 of
23 the year in which the alternative program teacher certificate is
24 issued;

1 ~~(4)~~ (E) ~~Have been offered~~ Receive a formal offer of employment
 2 in an area of critical need and shortage by ~~from~~ a county board
 3 superintendent; in an area of critical need and shortage and

4 ~~(5)~~ (F) Qualify for employment following a criminal history
 5 check pursuant to section ten of this article.

6 ~~(4)~~ Persons A person who ~~satisfy~~ satisfies the requirements
 7 set forth in ~~subdivisions (1) through (5)~~ subdivision (3) of this
 8 subsection shall be granted a formal document ~~which will enable~~
 9 ~~them~~ authorizing him or her to work in a public school in West
 10 Virginia.

11 ~~(b)~~ ~~The rules adopted by the board shall include provisions~~
 12 ~~for the approval of alternative teacher education programs which~~
 13 ~~may be offered by schools, school districts, consortia of schools,~~
 14 ~~or regional educational service agency and for the setting of~~
 15 ~~tuition charges to offset the program costs. An approved~~
 16 ~~alternative teacher education program shall be in effect for a~~
 17 ~~school, school district, consortium of schools or regional~~
 18 ~~educational service agency before an alternative program teacher~~
 19 ~~may be employed in that school, school district, consortium of~~
 20 ~~schools or regional educational service agency.~~

21 (5) An approved alternative program ~~shall provide~~ provides
 22 essential knowledge and skills to alternative program teachers
 23 through the following phases of training:

24 ~~(1)~~ (A) Instruction. -- The alternative preparation program

1 shall provide a minimum of eighteen semester hours of instruction
2 in the areas of student assessment; development and learning;
3 curriculum; classroom management; the use of educational computers
4 and other technology; and special education and diversity. All
5 programs shall contain a minimum of three semester hours of
6 instruction in special education and diversity out of the minimum
7 eighteen required semester hours. Subject to the approval of the
8 state board, an approved education provider may provide instruction
9 equivalent to the eighteen semester hours required by this
10 paragraph through nontraditional methods, including, but not
11 limited to, methods such as a series of modules covering the
12 various topics, electronically delivered instruction, summer
13 sessions, professional development and job-embedded mentoring.

14 ~~(2)~~ (B) Phase I. -- Phase I ~~shall consist~~ consists of a period
15 of intensive, on-the-job supervision by an assigned mentor and the
16 school administrator for a period of not ~~less~~ fewer than two ~~weeks~~
17 ~~and no more than four~~ weeks. The assigned mentor shall meet the
18 requirements for a beginning teacher internship mentor set forth in
19 section two-b of this article and shall be paid the stipend
20 authorized pursuant to that section. ~~During this time, the teacher~~
21 The state board shall provide, in its rule for the approval and
22 operation of this program, requirements for the frequency and
23 duration of time periods for the person holding an alternative
24 certificate to observe in the classroom of the mentor. The person

1 holding an alternative certificate shall be observed daily by the
2 mentor or the school administrator during this phase. This phase
3 ~~shall include~~ includes an orientation to the policies, organization
4 and curriculum of the employing district. The alternative program
5 teacher shall ~~begin to~~ receive formal instruction in those areas
6 listed in ~~subdivision (1)~~ paragraph (A) of this ~~subsection~~
7 subdivision.

8 ~~(3)~~ (C) *Phase II.* -- Phase II ~~shall consist~~ consists of a
9 period of intensive, on-the-job supervision beginning the first day
10 following the completion of Phase I and continuing for a period of
11 at least ten weeks.

12 (i) During Phase II, the alternative program teacher ~~shall be~~
13 is visited and critiqued ~~no less than~~ at least one time per week by
14 members of a professional support team, as defined in ~~subsection~~
15 ~~(c)~~ subdivision (6) of this ~~section~~ subsection, and ~~shall be~~ is
16 observed ~~and formally evaluated~~ by the appropriately certified
17 members of the team at the end of five weeks and again ~~at the end~~
18 ~~of ten weeks by the appropriately certified members of the team~~ at
19 five-week intervals until the completion of this phase.

20 (ii) At the ~~end of the ten-week period~~ completion of this
21 phase, the alternative program teacher shall receive a formal
22 ~~written progress report from the chairperson of the support team~~
23 evaluation by the principal.

24 (iii) The alternative program teacher shall continue to

1 receive formal instruction in those areas listed ~~above~~ under in
2 paragraph (A), subdivision (1) of this ~~subsection~~ subdivision.

3 ~~(4)~~ (D) Phase III. -- Phase III ~~shall consist~~ consists of an
4 additional period of continued supervision and evaluation of no
5 ~~less~~ fewer than twenty weeks duration. The professional support
6 team ~~will determine~~ determines the requirements of this phase, ~~with~~
7 but those requirements shall include at least one formal evaluation
8 ~~being~~ conducted at the completion of the phase by the principal.
9 The alternative program teacher shall continue to receive formal
10 instruction in those areas listed ~~above~~ in paragraph (A)
11 ~~subdivision (1)~~ of this ~~subsection~~ subdivision, and ~~receive~~ shall
12 be given opportunities to observe the teaching of experienced
13 colleagues.

14 ~~(c)~~ (6) Professional support team. --

15 (A) Training and supervision of alternative program teachers
16 ~~shall be~~ are provided by a professional support team comprised of
17 a school principal, or his or her designee, an experienced
18 classroom teacher who satisfies the requirements for mentor for the
19 Beginning Educator Internship ~~as specified in~~ pursuant to section
20 two-b of this article, ~~a college or university education faculty~~
21 ~~member~~ a nonpublic education representative of the approved
22 education provider, and a curriculum supervisor or other central
23 office administrator with certification and training relevant to
24 the training and supervision of the alternative program candidate.

1 (B) Districts or schools which ~~do not employ curriculum~~
2 ~~supervisors or~~ have been unable to establish a relationship with a
3 college or university shall provide for comparable expertise on the
4 team.

5 (C) The school principal, or his or her designee, ~~shall serve~~
6 serves as chairperson of the team.

7 (D) The duration of each of the three phases of the program
8 specified in paragraphs (B), (C) and (D), subdivision (5) of this
9 subsection, in excess of the minimum durations provided in those
10 paragraphs, shall be determined by the professional support team
11 within guidelines provided by the state board in its rule for the
12 approval and operation of this program.

13 (E) In addition to other duties assigned to it under this
14 section and section one-b of this article, the approved education
15 provider shall submit a written evaluation of the alternative
16 program teacher to the county superintendent. The written
17 evaluation shall be in a form specified by the county
18 superintendent and submitted on a date specified by the county
19 superintendent that is prior to the first Monday of May. The
20 evaluation shall report the progress of the alternative program
21 teacher toward meeting the academic and performance requirements of
22 the program.

23 ~~(d)~~ (E) The training for professional support team members
24 ~~shall~~ may be coordinated and provided by the Center for

1 Professional Development in coordination with the ~~school district,~~
 2 ~~consortium of schools, regional educational service agency, and~~
 3 ~~institution of higher education~~ approved education provider ~~or any~~
 4 ~~combination of these agencies~~ as set forth in the plan approved by
 5 the state board pursuant to ~~subsection (e)~~ subdivision (8) of this
 6 section.

7 (7) In lieu of and as an alternative to the professional
 8 support team specified in subdivision (6) of this section and its
 9 specific duties throughout the program phases as set forth in
 10 subdivision (5) of this section, a school or school district that
 11 has implemented a comprehensive beginning teacher induction program
 12 may, subject to the approval of the state board, provide for the
 13 training and supervision of alternative program teachers using a
 14 structure consistent with the structure implemented for the
 15 support, supervision and mentoring of beginning teachers:
 16 Provided, That all final decisions on the progress of the
 17 alternative program teacher and recommendations upon program
 18 completion shall rest with the principal.

19 ~~(e) (8) A school, school district, consortium of schools, or~~
 20 ~~regional educational service agency~~ An approved education provider
 21 seeking to employ approval for an alternative certification program
 22 ~~teacher must~~ shall submit a plan to the state board. ~~and receive~~
 23 ~~approval~~

24 (A) No alternative certification program may be implemented

1 prior to receiving state board approval.

2 (B) Each plan shall describe how the proposed training program
3 will accomplish the key elements of an alternative program for the
4 education of teachers as set forth in this section. ~~Each school,~~
5 ~~school district, consortium of schools or regional educational~~
6 ~~service agency shall show evidence in its plan of having sought~~
7 ~~joint sponsorship of their training program with institutions of~~
8 ~~higher education.~~

9 ~~(f) The state board shall promulgate a rule in accordance with~~
10 ~~article three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code for the~~
11 ~~approval and operation of alternative education programs to prepare~~
12 ~~highly qualified special education teachers that~~

13 (d) Alternative highly qualified special education teacher
14 education program. --

15 (1) These programs are separate from the programs established
16 under the other provisions of this section and are applicable only
17 to teachers who have at least a bachelor's degree in a program for
18 the preparation of teachers from a regionally accredited
19 institution of higher education.

20 (2) These programs are subject to the other provisions of this
21 section only to the extent specifically provided ~~for~~ in the rule.

22 (3) These programs may be an alternative to the regular
23 college and university programs for the education of special
24 education teachers and also may address the content area

1 preparation of certified special education teachers.

2 (4) The programs shall incorporate professional development to
3 the maximum extent possible to help teachers who are currently
4 certified in special education to obtain the required content area
5 preparation.

6 (5) Participation in an alternative education program pursuant
7 to this subsection ~~shall~~ may not affect any rights, privileges or
8 benefits to which the participant otherwise would ~~otherwise~~ be
9 entitled as a regular employee ~~nor does it~~ and may not alter any
10 rights, privileges or benefits of participants on continuing
11 contract status. ~~The state board shall report to the Legislative~~
12 ~~Oversight Commission on Education Accountability on the programs~~
13 ~~authorized under this subsection during the July, 2005, interim~~
14 ~~meetings or as soon thereafter as practical prior to implementation~~
15 ~~of the programs.~~

16 ~~(g) The state board shall promulgate a rule in accordance with~~
17 ~~article three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code for the~~
18 ~~approval and operation of alternative education programs to prepare~~
19 ~~highly qualified special education teachers that~~

20 (e) Additional alternative education program to prepare highly
21 qualified special education teachers. --

22 (1) These programs are separate from the programs established
23 under the other provisions of this section and are applicable only
24 to persons who hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally

1 accredited institution of higher education.

2 (2) These programs are subject to the other provisions of this
3 section only to the extent specifically provided ~~for~~ in ~~this~~ the
4 rule.

5 (3) These programs may be an alternative to the regular
6 college and university programs for the education of special
7 education teachers and also may address the content area
8 preparation of ~~such~~ these persons. ~~The state board shall report to~~
9 ~~the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability on~~
10 ~~the programs authorized under this subsection during the July,~~
11 ~~2005, interim meetings or as soon thereafter as practical prior to~~
12 ~~implementation of the programs.~~

13 ~~(h) For the purposes of this section, "area of critical need~~
14 ~~and shortage" means an opening in an established, existing or newly~~
15 ~~created position which has been posted in accordance with the~~
16 ~~provisions of section seven-a, article four of this chapter, and~~
17 ~~for which no fully qualified applicant has been employed.~~

18 ~~(i) The recommendation to rehire an alternative education~~
19 ~~program teacher, pursuant to section eight-a, article two of this~~
20 ~~chapter is subject to the position being posted and no fully~~
21 ~~qualified applicant being employed: *Provided, That this provision*~~
22 ~~does not apply to teachers who hold a valid West Virginia~~
23 ~~professional teaching certificate and who are employed under a~~
24 ~~program operated pursuant to subsection (f).~~

1 not be issued and that the candidate not be allowed to enter into
2 another approved alternative teacher education program in this
3 state, but shall not be prohibited from pursuing teacher
4 certification through other approved programs for the education of
5 teachers in this state.

6 The ~~chairperson of the professional support team~~ approved
7 education provider shall provide the alternative program teacher
8 with a copy of the alternative program teacher's written evaluation
9 report and certification recommendation before submitting it to the
10 state superintendent. If the alternative program teacher disagrees
11 with the ~~chairperson's~~ provider's recommendation, the alternative
12 program teacher may, within fifteen days of receipt, request an
13 appeal in accordance with the certification appeals process
14 established by the state Board of Education.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow an entity affiliated with an institution of higher education in this state with a regionally accredited program for the education of professional educators to provide alternative certification programs for teachers.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.

This bill was recommended for introduction and passage during the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature by the Joint Standing Committee on Education Subcommittee B.