

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 14

BY SENATORS RUCKER, ROBERTS, TAKUBO, AND

MARONEY

[Introduced February 10, 2021; referred
to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18A-3-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to creating a third set of conditions for which a person may be issued a professional
 3 teaching certificate for teaching in the public schools; and providing that teaching
 4 certificates granted pursuant to the new set of conditions are equivalent to certificates
 5 granted to graduates of teacher preparation programs at public higher education
 6 institutions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

§18A-3-2a. Certificates valid in the public schools that may be issued by the State Superintendent.

1 In accordance with state board rules for the education of professional educators adopted
 2 pursuant to section one of this article and subject to the limitations and conditions of that section,
 3 the state superintendent may issue the following certificates valid in the public schools of the
 4 state:

5 (a) *Professional teaching certificates.* —

6 (1) A professional teaching certificate for teaching in the public schools may be issued to
 7 a person who meets the following conditions:

8 (A) Holds at least a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher
 9 education, and:

10 (i) Has passed appropriate state board approved basic skills and subject matter tests in
 11 the area for which licensure is being sought; and

12 (ii) Has completed a program for the education of teachers which meets the requirements
 13 approved by the state board; or

14 (iii) Has met equivalent standards at institutions in other states; or

15 (iv) Has completed three years of successful teaching experience within the last seven
16 years under a license issued by another state in the area for which licensure is being sought; or

17 (v) Has completed an alternative program approved by another state; or

18 (B) Holds at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education;

19 and

20 (i) Has passed appropriate state board approved basic skills and subject matter tests; and

21 (ii) Has completed an alternative program for teacher education as provided in this article;

22 and

23 (iii) Is recommended for a certificate in accordance with the provisions of section one-i of
24 this article relating to the program; and

25 (iv) Is recommended by the State Superintendent based on documentation submitted; or

26 (C) Holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education; and

27 (i) Submits to a criminal history check pursuant to §18A-3-10 of this code: *Provided, That*
28 information discovered during the criminal history check may form the basis for the denial of a
29 certificate for just cause; and

30 (ii) Successfully completes pedagogical training or course in substantive alignment with
31 nationally recognized pedagogical standards; or approved or established by the state board; and

32 (iii) Successfully completes subject matter content training in substantial alignment with
33 nationally recognized pedagogical standards in the area or areas in which the graduate seeks to
34 be endorsed; or passes the same basic skills, subject matter, and competency test or tests
35 required by the state board for traditional program applicants for licensure.

36 (2) The certificate shall be endorsed to indicate the grade level or levels or areas of
37 specialization in which the person is certified to teach or to serve in the public schools.

38 (3) The initial professional certificate is issued provisionally for a period of three years from
39 the date of issuance:

40 (A) The certificate may be converted to a professional certificate valid for five years subject
41 to successful completion of a beginning teacher induction program, if applicable; or

42 (B) The certificate may be renewed subject to rules adopted by the state board.

43 (4) Teaching certificates granted pursuant to §18A-3-2a(a)(1)(C) of this code shall be
44 equivalent to certificates granted to graduates of teacher preparation programs at public higher
45 education institutions.

46 (b) *Alternative program teacher certificate.* — An alternative program teacher certificate
47 may be issued to a candidate who is enrolled in an alternative program for teacher education
48 approved by the state board.

49 (1) The certificate is valid only for the alternative program position in which the candidate
50 is employed and is subject to enrollment in the program.

51 (2) The certificate is valid while the candidate is enrolled in the alternative program, up to
52 a maximum of three years, and may not be renewed.

53 (c) *Professional administrative certificate.* —

54 (1) A professional administrative certificate, endorsed for serving in the public schools,
55 with specific endorsement as a principal, vocational administrator, supervisor of instructions or
56 superintendent, may be issued to a person who has completed requirements all to be approved
57 by the state board as follows:

58 ~~(A)~~ Holds at least a master's degree from an institution of higher education accredited to
59 offer a master's degree; and

60 (i) Has successfully completed an approved program for administrative certification
61 developed by the state board in cooperation with the chancellor for higher education, and

62 (ii) Has successfully completed education and training in evaluation skills through the
63 Center for Professional Development, or equivalent education and training in evaluation skills
64 approved by the state board, and

65 (iii) Possesses three years of management level experience.

66 (2) Any person serving in the position of dean of students on June 4, 1992, is not required
67 to hold a professional administrative certificate.

68 (3) The initial professional administrative certificate is issued provisionally for a period of
69 five years. This certificate may be converted to a professional administrative certificate valid for
70 five years or renewed, subject to the regulations of the state board.

71 (d) *Paraprofessional certificate.* — A paraprofessional certificate may be issued to a
72 person who meets the following conditions:

73 (1) Has completed 36 semester hours of post-secondary education or its equivalent in
74 subjects directly related to performance of the job, all approved by the state board; and

75 (2) Demonstrates the proficiencies to perform duties as required of a paraprofessional as
76 defined in ~~section eight, article four of this chapter~~ §18A-4-8 of this code.

77 (e) *Other certificates; permits.* —

78 (1) Other certificates and permits may be issued, subject to the approval of the state board,
79 to persons who do not qualify for the professional or paraprofessional certificate.

80 (2) A certificate or permit may not be given permanent status and a person holding one of
81 these credentials shall meet renewal requirements provided by law and by regulation, unless the
82 state board declares certain of these certificates to be the equivalent of the professional
83 certificate.

84 (3) Within the category of other certificates and permits, the State Superintendent may
85 issue certificates for persons to serve in the public schools as athletic coaches or coaches of other
86 extracurricular activities, whose duties may include the supervision of students, subject to the
87 following limitations:

88 (A) The person is employed under a contract with the county board of education.

89 (i) The contract specifies the duties to be performed, specifies a rate of pay that is
90 equivalent to the rate of pay for professional educators in the district who accept similar duties as
91 extra duty assignments, and provides for liability insurance associated with the activity; and

92 (ii) The person holding this certificate is not considered an employee of the board for salary
93 and benefit purposes other than as specified in the contract.

94 (B) The person completes an orientation program designed and approved in accordance
95 with state board rules.

96 (f) *Teacher-in-residence permit.* —

97 (1) A teacher-in-residence permit may be issued to a candidate who is enrolled in a
98 teacher-in-residence program in accordance with an agreement between an institution of higher
99 education and a county board. The agreement is developed pursuant to ~~subsection (e), section~~
100 ~~one of this article~~ §18A-3-1(e) of this code and requires approval by the state board.

101 (2) The permit is valid only for the teacher-in-residence program position in which the
102 candidate is enrolled and is subject to enrollment in the program. The permit is valid for no more
103 than one school year and may not be renewed.

104 (g) *Temporary teaching certificates for armed forces spouses.* —

105 (1) A temporary teaching certificate for an armed forces spouse may be issued to an
106 individual who meets the following criteria:

107 (A) He or she is married to a member of the armed forces of the United States who is on
108 active duty;

109 (B) He or she holds a current unencumbered teaching certificate or license issued by an
110 equivalent credentialing department, board, or authority, as determined by the State
111 Superintendent, in another state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the
112 United States Virgin Islands, another territory or protectorate of the United States or a foreign
113 country; and

114 (C) He or she provides proof acceptable to the State Superintendent that his or her spouse
115 is assigned to a duty station in this state or at a military installation within 50 air miles of the West
116 Virginia border and that he or she is also assigned to a duty station in this state or at a military

117 installation within 50 air miles of the West Virginia border under his or her spouse's official active
118 duty military orders.

119 (2) The State Superintendent shall deny a temporary teaching certificate to an individual
120 described in (1) above for fraud, material misrepresentation or concealment in the person's
121 application for a temporary teaching certificate or for a conviction for which an individual's
122 teaching certificate may be revoked under ~~section six of this article~~ §18A-3-6 of this code.

123 (3) A temporary teaching certificate issued under (1) above is valid for one year and may
124 be renewed for additional one-year terms if the State Superintendent determines the individual
125 holding the temporary teaching certificate continues to meet the requirements of (1) above. The
126 State Superintendent may revoke a temporary teaching certificate for a conviction for which an
127 individual's teaching certificate may be revoked under ~~section six of this article~~ §18A-3-6 of this
128 code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide for additional options for alternative certification.

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