

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL**No. 202** Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, EICHELBERGER, ERICKSON, GREENLEAF,
TARTAGLIONE, WAUGH, M. WHITE AND WILLIAMS, JANUARY 20, 2011

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 20, 2011

AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," further providing for certificates qualifying persons to teach and for kinds of State certificates; and providing for postbaccalaureate certification.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 1201 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, amended January 14, 1970 (1969 P.L.468, No.192), is amended to read:

Section 1201. Certificates Qualifying Persons to Teach.--Only those persons holding one of the following certificates shall be qualified to teach in the public schools of this Commonwealth--(1) Permanent college certificate, (2) provisional college certificate, (3) normal school diploma, (4) normal school certificate, (5) special permanent certificate, (6) special temporary certificate, (7) permanent State

certificate, (8) residency certificate, (9) intern certificate,
(10) certificates which are permanent licenses to teach by
virtue of the provisions of section one thousand three hundred
eight of the act, approved the eighteenth day of May, one
thousand nine hundred eleven (Pamphlet Laws 309), as amended,
which is repealed hereby, or [(9)] (11) such other kinds of
certificates as are issued under the standards prescribed by the
State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall
also provide for issuance of certificates by district
superintendents to meet such emergencies or shortage of teachers
as may occur.

Section 2. Sections 1203 and 1206 of the act are amended to
read:

Section 1203. Kinds of State Certificates.--(a) State
certificates hereafter granted shall include the following:

Provisional College Certificates,
Permanent College Certificates,
Certificates issued by other states and validated by the
Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Special Temporary Certificates,
Special Permanent Certificates[.],
Residency Certificates,
Intern Certificates.

(b) All persons receiving any of such certificates shall
have qualifications not less than graduation from a State
Teachers' College of this Commonwealth, or equivalent training.
Postbaccalaureate certification programs, including residency,
intern and administrative certification programs completed under
section 1207.1, are equivalent training for purposes of this
act.

(c) Every college certificate shall set forth the names of the college or university from which its holder was graduated. State certificates shall entitle their holders to teach in every part of this Commonwealth for the terms herein specified.

Section 1206. Certificates Issued by Other States.--[The Superintendent of Public Instruction may validate in this Commonwealth teachers' certificates issued by other states, or by the State normal schools or colleges of other states, whose requirements are equivalent to those of this Commonwealth. Such validation of certificates may be revoked by the Superintendent of Public Instruction at any time.] (a) Candidates holding a valid instructional certificate issued by another state may be eligible for comparable Pennsylvania certification provided that the candidate meets the following requirements:

(1) Holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

(2) Has at least three (3) years of successful professional experience.

(3) Demonstrates subject matter competency in the applicable area of Pennsylvania certification.

(4) Satisfies the requirements of section 1209.

(b) The Secretary of Education shall adopt standards and guidelines as necessary to implement this section.

Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 1207.1. Postbaccalaureate Certification.--(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Secretary of Education shall have all of the following powers and duties with regard to postbaccalaureate certification programs:

(1) Evaluate and approve, in accordance with this section,

all postbaccalaureate certification programs, including accelerated programs, leading to the certification of professional personnel including intern certification programs, residency certification programs and administrative certification programs.

(2) Evaluate and approve qualified providers of postbaccalaureate certification programs, which may include providers other than institutions of higher education.

(3) Develop guidelines for the approval of postbaccalaureate instructional certification programs, which shall include:

(i) Instruction and training in the following:

(A) Educational strategies for the designated subject area.

(B) Child development specifically related to the level of the certificate sought.

(C) Professional ethics and responsibilities.

(D) Pennsylvania academic standards.

(E) Assessment knowledge and skills.

(F) Accommodations and adaptations for students with disabilities in an inclusive setting.

(G) Strategies for meeting instructional needs of English language learners.

(ii) Requirements for candidate oversight and mentoring that include field placement, student teaching, classroom observations and ongoing support for novice educators in partnership with local education agencies during their induction period, including observation, consultation and assessment that includes close supervision by a professional employe.

(4) Issue certificates in accordance with this section to qualified candidates.

(5) Adopt standards and guidelines as necessary to implement

this section.

(b) (1) The Secretary of Education may make a one-time issuance of a residency certificate for service in a specific shortage area of instruction in public schools of this Commonwealth to an applicant who meets all of the following:

(i) Satisfies the requirements specified under section 1209.

(ii) Meets one of the following:

(A) Holds a doctoral degree from an accredited college or university in the subject area of shortage.

(B) Holds a master's degree from an accredited college or university in the subject area of shortage and has at least two (2) years of work experience in the subject area or related field.

(C) Holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in the subject area of shortage and has at least five (5) years of work experience in the subject area or related field.

(iii) Is continuously enrolled in an approved residency program.

(iv) Presents evidence of satisfactory achievement on the appropriate subject area content test.

(2) A residency certificate shall be valid for three (3) years of teaching in the public schools of this Commonwealth in the area for which it applies.

(3) The Secretary of Education shall have all of the following powers and duties related to the issuance of residency certificates:

(i) Identify areas of certification in which there is a Statewide or regional shortage of qualified teachers.

(ii) Develop guidelines for the residency program in

accordance with subsection (a).

(iii) Issue residency certificates to qualified applicants.

(iv) Report annually to the State Board of Education on the number of residency certificates issued under this section.

(4) A residency certificate may be converted to an Instructional I Certificate upon the completion of all residency program requirements under Department of Education guidelines and the completion of three (3) years of satisfactory teaching in the public schools of this Commonwealth.

(c) (1) Postbaccalaureate instructional intern certification programs shall provide flexible and accelerated pedagogical training to teachers who have demonstrated subject matter competency in a subject area related to their certification, provided that the first year of teaching includes a minimum of one classroom observation each month by an approved postbaccalaureate certification program provider.

(2) The Secretary of Education may make a one-time issuance of a postbaccalaureate instructional intern certificate for service in a specific area of instruction to candidates who, in addition to meeting the requirements of section 1209, present evidence of satisfactory achievement on the department-prescribed subject matter assessments related to the area of certification and hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. This certificate shall require continuing enrollment in an approved postbaccalaureate instructional intern certification program.

(3) A postbaccalaureate instructional intern certificate shall be valid for three (3) years of teaching in the public schools of this Commonwealth and may not be renewed.

(4) A candidate shall be issued an Instructional I

Certificate upon successful completion of the approved postbaccalaureate instructional intern program provided that the candidate has satisfied the requirements of section 1209.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be granted an administrative certificate by the Department of Education unless:

(i) The candidate holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

(ii) The candidate has had three (3) years of relevant professional experience.

(iii) The candidate satisfies the requirements of section 1209.

(iv) The candidate has completed in a college or university a graduate program in education approved by the Department of Education or has provided to the Secretary of Education satisfactory evidence that the candidate has successfully completed a leadership development program that meets the Pennsylvania school leadership standards under section 1217.

(2) The Secretary of Education may adopt standards and guidelines as necessary to implement this section.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no candidate for certification or admission into a certification preparation program who holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university shall be required to complete the academic preparation requirements of 22 Pa. Code Ch. 354 (relating to preparation of professional educators).

Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.