

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senator Hutson

581-02368-16

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to teacher certification; amending s.
 3 1012.56, F.S.; providing alternative requirements for
 4 earning a professional educator certificate that
 5 covers certain grades; providing an effective date.
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7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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9 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
 10 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

12 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

13 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional
 14 certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant
 15 who meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2) or,
 16 for a professional certificate covering grades 6 through 12, any
 17 applicant who:

18 1. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)-(h).

19 2. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of
 20 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

21 3. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the
 22 advanced degree.

23 4. Is rated highly effective as determined by the teacher's
 24 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part on
 25 student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized
 26 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International
 27 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate
 28 examination.

29 5. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional
 30 education competency examination required by state board rule.

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 32 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years

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33 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph
34 (2)(g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of
35 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are
36 employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time
37 period may continue to be employed through the end of the school
38 year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall
39 not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a
40 position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond
41 this time period if the individual has not met the requirement
42 of paragraph (2)(g). The State Board of Education shall adopt
43 rules to allow the department to extend the validity period of a
44 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the
45 professional certificate, not including the requirement in
46 paragraph (2)(g), were not completed due to the serious illness
47 or injury of the applicant or other extraordinary extenuating
48 circumstances. The department shall reissue the temporary
49 certificate for 2 additional years upon approval by the
50 Commissioner of Education. A written request for reissuance of
51 the certificate shall be submitted by the district school
52 superintendent, the governing authority of a university lab
53 school, the governing authority of a state-supported school, or
54 the governing authority of a private school.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.