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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to teachers; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.;
 revising requirements for demonstrating mastery of general
 knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional
 preparation and education competence for purposes of
 certification; revising requirements for temporary
 certification; amending s. 1012.58, F.S.; revising
 provisions relating to the Transition to Teaching Program;
 expanding the program to assist dislocated professionals
 and other baccalaureate degree holders to become teachers;
 authorizing teacher preparation programs for persons with
 noneducation majors; requiring instruction for mastery of
 competencies; authorizing state and federal funding;
 providing Transition to Teaching Program requirements;
 providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (3), (4), (5), and (6) of section
 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1012.56 Educator certification requirements.--

(3) MASTERY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.--Acceptable means of
 demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:

(a) Achievement of passing scores on basic skills
 examination required by state board rule;

(b) Achievement of passing scores on the College Level
 Academic Skills Test earned prior to July 1, 2002;

~~(c) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
 another state that requires an examination of mastery of general
 knowledge;~~



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31 (c)~~(d)~~ A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
32 another state and valid certificate issued by the National Board
33 for Professional Teaching Standards; or

34 (d)~~(e)~~ A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
35 another state ~~and documentation of 2 years of continuous~~
36 ~~successful full-time teaching or administrative experience~~
37 ~~during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of~~
38 ~~application for certification.~~

39 (4) MASTERY OF SUBJECT AREA KNOWLEDGE.--Acceptable means
40 of demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:

41 (a) Achievement of passing scores on subject area
42 examinations required by state board rule;

43 (b) Completion of the subject area specialization
44 requirements specified in state board rule and verification of
45 the attainment of the essential subject matter competencies by
46 the district school superintendent of the employing school
47 district or chief administrative officer of the employing state-
48 supported or private school for a subject area for which a
49 subject area examination has not been developed and required by
50 state board rule;

51 (c) Completion of the graduate level subject area
52 specialization requirements specified in state board rule for a
53 subject coverage requiring a master's or higher degree and
54 achievement of a passing score on the subject area examination
55 specified in state board rule;

56 ~~(d) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by~~
57 ~~another state that requires an examination of mastery of subject~~
58 ~~area knowledge;~~



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59 (d)~~(e)~~ A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
 60 another state and valid certificate issued by the National Board
 61 for Professional Teaching Standards; or

62 (e)~~(f)~~ A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
 63 another state ~~and documentation of 2 years of continuous~~
 64 ~~successful full-time teaching or administrative experience~~
 65 ~~during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of~~
 66 ~~application for certification.~~

67 (5) MASTERY OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND EDUCATION
 68 COMPETENCE.--Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of
 69 professional preparation and education competence are:

70 (a) Completion of an approved teacher preparation program
 71 at a postsecondary educational institution within this state and
 72 achievement of a passing score on the professional education
 73 competency examination required by state board rule;

74 (b) Completion of a teacher preparation program at a
 75 postsecondary educational institution outside Florida and
 76 achievement of a passing score on the professional education
 77 competency examination required by state board rule;

78 ~~(c) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by~~
 79 ~~another state that requires an examination of mastery of~~
 80 ~~professional education competence;~~

81 (c)~~(d)~~ A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
 82 another state and valid certificate issued by the National Board
 83 for Professional Teaching Standards;

84 (d)~~(e)~~ A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
 85 another state ~~and documentation of 2 years of continuous~~
 86 ~~successful full-time teaching or administrative experience~~
 87 ~~during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of~~
 88 ~~application for certification;~~



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89 ~~(e)~~(f) Completion of professional preparation courses as
90 specified in state board rule, successful completion of a
91 professional education competence demonstration program pursuant
92 to paragraph (7)(b), and achievement of a passing score on the
93 professional education competency examination required by state
94 board rule; or

95 ~~(f)~~(g) Successful completion of a professional preparation
96 alternative certification and education competency program,
97 outlined in paragraph (7)(a).

98 (6) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.--

99 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional
100 certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant
101 who meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2).

102 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to
103 any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in
104 paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content
105 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates
106 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (4) and
107 holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the
108 Department of Education at the level required for the subject
109 area specialization in state board rule.

110 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year
111 temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional
112 certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's
113 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for
114 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language
115 impairment.

116
117 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years
118 and is nonrenewable. During the validity period of the temporary



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119 certificate, all professional preparation and testing
120 requirements must be completed to be eligible for the 5-year
121 professional certificate and continued employment. However, the
122 requirement in paragraph (2)(g) must be met within 1 calendar
123 year of the date of employment under the temporary certificate.
124 Individuals who are employed under contract at the end of the 1
125 calendar year time period may continue to be employed through
126 the end of the school year in which they have been contracted. A
127 school district shall not employ, or continue the employment of,
128 an individual in a position for which a temporary certificate is
129 required beyond this time period if the individual has not met
130 the requirement of paragraph (2)(g). The State Board of
131 Education shall adopt rules to allow the department to extend
132 the validity period of a temporary certificate for 2 years when
133 the requirements for the professional certificate, not including
134 the requirement in paragraph (2)(g), were not completed due to
135 the serious illness or injury of the applicant or other
136 extraordinary extenuating circumstances. The department shall
137 reissue the temporary certificate for 2 additional years upon
138 approval by the Commissioner of Education. A written request for
139 reissuance of the certificate shall be submitted by the district
140 school superintendent, the governing authority of a university
141 lab school, the governing authority of a state-supported school,
142 or the governing authority of a private school.

143 Section 2. Section 1012.58, Florida Statutes, is amended
144 to read:

145 1012.58 Transition to Teaching Program.--

146 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Transition to Teaching
147 Program, known as the "EXPRESS TRACK," is created to encourage
148 and assist midcareer professionals, dislocated professionals,



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149 and other baccalaureate degree holders who want to become
150 teachers.

151 (2) Community colleges and approved teacher preparation
152 programs are authorized to offer teacher preparation programs
153 for baccalaureate degree holders with noneducation majors. Such
154 programs shall provide participants with the competencies
155 identified through the alternative certification program, as
156 described in s. 1012.56(7), or as identified by the provider as
157 appropriate to successfully demonstrate mastery of professional
158 preparation and education competence, as specified in s.
159 1012.56(5), and to enter the classroom. Competency-based
160 instruction should be offered in a time-shortened method, where
161 possible. Transition to Teaching Program participants must be
162 determined by a school district to be eligible to obtain a
163 temporary certificate, including meeting the requirements of s.
164 1012.56(2)(a)-(f), except that participants may be accepted into
165 the program if they attained a 2.5 overall grade point average
166 on a 4.0 scale in their baccalaureate or higher degree.

167 Participants may enter employment with a temporary certificate
168 during the period they are completing the program, with school
169 district approval. However, Transition to Teaching programs are
170 encouraged to ensure that sufficient competencies are acquired
171 by participants prior to said employment. Transition to Teaching
172 programs shall provide assistance to potential participants in
173 completing the requirements for demonstration of mastery of
174 general knowledge and subject area knowledge.

175 (3)(2) GRANTS; FUNDING ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.--

176 (a) If state or federal funds are available to support
177 Transition to Teaching programs, the Commissioner of Education
178 shall design the process for receiving and evaluating grant or



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179 funding proposals in accordance with state and federal
 180 appropriations guidelines, as appropriate. Grants may be awarded
 181 only to the extent that funding is provided. However, community
 182 college Transition to Teaching Program completers shall be
 183 included in appropriate performance-based funding allocations.

184 (4) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.--

185 (a)~~(b)~~ The Commissioner of Education shall review
 186 Transition to Teaching programs to ensure that each program
 187 addresses the following request proposals from eligible
 188 applicants to participate in the program. Each application must:

189 1. Describes ~~Describe~~ the target group of career-changing
 190 professionals or baccalaureate degree holders upon which the
 191 program applicant will focus in carrying out its program,
 192 including a description of the characteristics of the target
 193 group that shows how the knowledge and experience of its members
 194 are likely to improve their ability to become effective
 195 teachers.

196 2. Describes ~~Describe~~ how the program applicant will
 197 identify and recruit program participants.

198 3. Describes ~~Describe~~ how the program applicant will
 199 ensure that program participants are placed and teach in
 200 eligible school districts in this state.

201 4. Describes ~~Describe~~ the teacher support services that
 202 program participants will receive throughout at least their
 203 first year of teaching.

204 5. Describes ~~Describe~~ how the program applicant will
 205 collaborate with other institutions, agencies, or organizations,
 206 including the local workforce development agencies, to recruit,
 207 ~~train,~~ place, and support program participants, including



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208 evidence of the commitment of those institutions, agencies, or
209 organizations to the applicant's program.

210 (b)(e) The Commissioner of Education must require an
211 evaluation process to measure the progress and effectiveness of
212 the program. This evaluation must include:

213 1. The program's goals and objectives.

214 2. The performance indicators that the program applicant
215 will use to measure the program's progress.

216 3. The outcome measures that will be used to determine the
217 program's effectiveness, including pass rates of participants on
218 the professional preparation examination.

219 4. An assurance that the program applicant will provide
220 the commissioner with information the commissioner finds
221 necessary to determine the overall effectiveness of the
222 programs.

223 ~~(5)(3) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION; AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.--~~

224 ~~(a) An applicant shall estimate the funds required for the~~
225 ~~proposed program. All funds provided for a program must be used~~
226 ~~as authorized in federal guidelines.~~

227 ~~(b) Eligible providers applicants~~ are encouraged to
228 implement the program using the following components:

229 ~~(a)1. Recruiting program participants, including informing~~
230 ~~them of opportunities under the program and putting them in~~
231 ~~contact with other institutions, agencies, or organizations that~~
232 ~~will train, place, and support them in the teaching profession.~~

233 ~~(b)2. Tailoring Assisting providers of teacher training to~~
234 ~~tailor their training to meet the particular needs of~~
235 ~~participants professionals who are changing their careers to~~
236 ~~teaching.~~



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237 (c)3- Placement activities, including identifying eligible
238 local education agencies with a need for the skills and
239 characteristics of the newly trained program participants and
240 assisting those participants to obtain employment in those
241 school districts.

242 (d)4- Postplacement support activities for program
243 participants.

244 (6)(4) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS; REQUIREMENTS FOR ~~GRANT~~
245 REPAYMENT.--

246 (a) If state or federal funds are used to support training
247 stipends, each participant who receives a stipend ~~grant~~ from the
248 program to pursue a teacher preparation program must agree to
249 teach in an eligible school district in this state for at least
250 3 years after certification. To be eligible, a school district
251 must meet the requirements established in regulations that
252 implement the Omnibus Appropriations Bill of 2000.

253 (b) The commissioner shall establish conditions under
254 which a participant must repay all or a portion of the training
255 stipend if the participant fails to complete his or her service
256 obligation.

257 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.