

By the Committees on Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations;
Education Pre-K - 12; and Senators Dockery and Fasano

602-06998A-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to educator certification requirements;
3 amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; requiring a bachelor's degree
4 or higher and subject area examinations in specified
5 foreign languages for the purpose of demonstrating mastery
6 of that subject area knowledge; revising requirements
7 relating to the issuance of temporary certificates;
8 providing an effective date.

9
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
12 Section 1. Subsections (4) and (6) of section 1012.56,
13 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.--

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

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

19 (b) Completion of the subject area specialization
20 requirements specified in state board rule and verification of
21 the attainment of the essential subject matter competencies by
22 the district school superintendent of the employing school
23 district or chief administrative officer of the employing state-
24 supported or private school for a subject area for which a
25 subject area examination has not been developed and required by
26 state board rule;

27 (c) Completion of the subject area specialization
28 requirements specified in state board rule for a subject coverage
29 requiring a master's or higher degree and achievement of a

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30 | passing score on the subject area examination specified in state
31 | board rule;

32 | (d) A valid professional standard teaching certificate
33 | issued by another state; ~~or~~

34 | (e) A valid certificate issued by the National Board for
35 | Professional Teaching Standards or a national educator
36 | credentialing board approved by the State Board of Education; or

37 | (f) Completion of a bachelor's degree or higher and
38 | documentation of the attainment of an oral proficiency interview
39 | score above the intermediate level and a written proficiency
40 | score above the intermediate level on a test administered by the
41 | American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages for which
42 | there is no Florida-developed examination. The languages may
43 | include, but are not limited to, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Greek,
44 | Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and
45 | Russian.

46 |
47 | School districts are encouraged to provide mechanisms for those
48 | middle school teachers holding only a K-6 teaching certificate to
49 | obtain a subject area coverage for middle grades through
50 | postsecondary coursework or district add-on certification.

51 | (6) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.--

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

55 | (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to
56 | any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in
57 | paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content
58 | requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates

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59 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (4) and
60 holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the Department
61 of Education at the level required for the subject area
62 specialization in state board rule.

63 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year
64 temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional
65 certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's
66 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for
67 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language
68 impairment.

69
70 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years and
71 is nonrenewable. ~~However, the requirement in paragraph (2)(g)~~
72 ~~must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of employment~~
73 ~~under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are employed~~
74 ~~under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time period may~~
75 ~~continue to be employed through the end of the school year in~~
76 ~~which they have been contracted. A school district shall not~~
77 ~~employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a~~
78 ~~position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond~~
79 ~~this time period if the individual has not met the requirement of~~
80 ~~paragraph (2)(g).~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
81 to allow the department to extend the validity period of a
82 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the
83 professional certificate, ~~not including the requirement in~~
84 ~~paragraph (2)(g),~~ were not completed due to the serious illness
85 or injury of the applicant or other extraordinary extenuating
86 circumstances. The department shall reissue the temporary
87 certificate for 2 additional years upon approval by the

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88 Commissioner of Education. A written request for reissuance of
89 the certificate shall be submitted by the district school
90 superintendent, the governing authority of a university lab
91 school, the governing authority of a state-supported school, or
92 the governing authority of a private school.

93 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.