

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to educator certification requirements;
 3 amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
 4 the means for demonstrating mastery of subject area
 5 knowledge; specifying world languages for which subject
 6 area examinations may be required by State Board of
 7 Education rule; authorizing degree completion and
 8 attainment of foreign language proficiency on specified
 9 national tests; revising requirements relating to the
 10 issuance of temporary certificates; providing an effective
 11 date.

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

17 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.--

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

20 (a) Achievement of passing scores on subject area
 21 examinations required by state board rule, which may include,
 22 but need not be limited to, world languages in Arabic, Chinese,
 23 Farsi, French, German, Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi,
 24 Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish;

25 (b) Completion of a bachelor's degree or higher and
 26 verification of the attainment of an oral proficiency interview
 27 score above the intermediate level and a written proficiency
 28 score above the intermediate level on a test administered by the

29 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages for which
 30 there is no Florida-developed examination;

31 (c)~~(b)~~ Completion of the subject area specialization
 32 requirements specified in state board rule and verification of
 33 the attainment of the essential subject matter competencies by
 34 the district school superintendent of the employing school
 35 district or chief administrative officer of the employing state-
 36 supported or private school for a subject area for which a
 37 subject area examination has not been developed and required by
 38 state board rule;

39 (d)~~(e)~~ Completion of the subject area specialization
 40 requirements specified in state board rule for a subject
 41 coverage requiring a master's or higher degree and achievement
 42 of a passing score on the subject area examination specified in
 43 state board rule;

44 (e)~~(d)~~ A valid professional standard teaching certificate
 45 issued by another state; or

46 (f)~~(e)~~ A valid certificate issued by the National Board
 47 for Professional Teaching Standards or a national educator
 48 credentialing board approved by the State Board of Education.

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

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

55 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional
 56 certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant

57 | who meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2).

58 | (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to
59 | any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in
60 | paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content
61 | requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates
62 | mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (4) and
63 | holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the
64 | Department of Education at the level required for the subject
65 | area specialization in state board rule.

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

72 |
73 | Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years
74 | and is nonrenewable. ~~However, the requirement in paragraph~~
75 | ~~(2)(g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of~~
76 | ~~employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are~~
77 | ~~employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time~~
78 | ~~period may continue to be employed through the end of the school~~
79 | ~~year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall~~
80 | ~~not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a~~
81 | ~~position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond~~
82 | ~~this time period if the individual has not met the requirement~~
83 | ~~of paragraph (2)(g).~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt
84 | rules to allow the department to extend the validity period of a

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85 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the
86 professional certificate, ~~not including the requirement in~~
87 ~~paragraph (2)(g)~~, were not completed due to the serious illness
88 or injury of the applicant or other extraordinary extenuating
89 circumstances. The department shall reissue the temporary
90 certificate for 2 additional years upon approval by the
91 Commissioner of Education. A written request for reissuance of
92 the certificate shall be submitted by the district school
93 superintendent, the governing authority of a university lab
94 school, the governing authority of a state-supported school, or
95 the governing authority of a private school.

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