

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to educator certifications; amending  
 3           s. 1012.55, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes  
 4           made by the act; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; providing  
 5           that individuals who meet specified requirements have  
 6           met certain educator certification requirements;  
 7           revising the number of years for which certain  
 8           temporary educator certificates are valid; providing  
 9           an effective date.

10

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

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13           Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section  
 14           1012.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15           1012.55 Positions for which certificates required.—

16           (1)

17           (e)1. The department shall issue a 5-year ~~3-year~~ temporary  
 18           certificate in educational leadership under s. 1012.56(7) to an  
 19           individual who:

20           a. Earned a passing score on the Florida Educational  
 21           Leadership Examination.

22           b. Served as a commissioned or noncommissioned military  
 23           officer in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3 years.

24           c. Was honorably discharged or has retired from the United  
 25           States Armed Forces.

26 d. Is employed full time in a position for which an  
 27 educator certificate is required in a Florida public school,  
 28 state-supported school, or nonpublic school that has a Level II  
 29 program under s. 1012.562.

30 2. A Level II program under s. 1012.562 must accept an  
 31 applicant who holds a temporary certificate under subparagraph  
 32 1. The department shall issue a permanent certification as a  
 33 school principal to an individual who holds a temporary  
 34 certificate under subparagraph 1. and successfully completes the  
 35 Level II program.

36 Section 2. Subsections (3) and (5) and paragraphs (c) and  
 37 (e) of subsection (7) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are  
 38 amended to read:

39 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

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

42 (a) Achievement of passing scores on the general knowledge  
 43 examination required by state board rule;

44 (b) Documentation of a valid professional standard  
 45 teaching certificate issued by another state;

46 (c) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the  
 47 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national  
 48 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of  
 49 Education;

50 (d) Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-

51 | time or part-time teaching in a Florida College System  
52 | institution, state university, or private college or university  
53 | that awards an associate or higher degree and is an accredited  
54 | institution or an institution of higher education identified by  
55 | the Department of Education as having a quality program;

56 |       (e) Achievement of passing scores, identified in state  
57 | board rule, on national or international examinations that test  
58 | comparable content and relevant standards in verbal, analytical  
59 | writing, and quantitative reasoning skills, including, but not  
60 | limited to, the verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative  
61 | reasoning portions of the Graduate Record Examination. Passing  
62 | scores identified in state board rule must be at approximately  
63 | the same level of rigor as is required to pass the general  
64 | knowledge examinations; or

65 |       (f) Documentation of receipt of a master's or higher  
66 | degree from an accredited postsecondary educational institution  
67 | that the Department of Education has identified as having a  
68 | quality program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher.

69 |  
70 | An individual who holds a certificate pursuant to this section;  
71 | has served as a classroom teacher, as defined in s.  
72 | 1012.01(2)(a), for the immediately preceding 3 school years; has  
73 | earned an effective or highly effective rating on his or her  
74 | evaluation under s. 1012.34 for the immediately preceding 3  
75 | school years; and has met the requirements of subsection (6) has

76 met the requirements of this subsection. A school district that  
77 employs an individual who does not achieve passing scores on any  
78 subtest of the general knowledge examination must provide  
79 information regarding the availability of state-level and  
80 district-level supports and instruction to assist him or her in  
81 achieving a passing score. Such information must include, but  
82 need not be limited to, state-level test information guides,  
83 school district test preparation resources, and preparation  
84 courses offered by state universities and Florida College System  
85 institutions.

86 (5) MASTERY OF SUBJECT AREA KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of  
87 demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:

88 (a) For a subject requiring only a baccalaureate degree  
89 for which a Florida subject area examination has been developed,  
90 achievement of a passing score on the Florida-developed subject  
91 area examination specified in state board rule;

92 (b) For a subject for which a Florida subject area  
93 examination has not been developed, achievement of a passing  
94 score on a standardized examination specified in state board  
95 rule, including, but not limited to, passing scores on both the  
96 oral proficiency and written proficiency examinations  
97 administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign  
98 Languages;

99 (c) For a subject for which a Florida subject area  
100 examination has not been developed or a standardized examination

101 has not been specified in state board rule, completion of the  
 102 subject area specialization requirements specified in state  
 103 board rule and verification of the attainment of the essential  
 104 subject matter competencies by the district school  
 105 superintendent of the employing school district or chief  
 106 administrative officer of the employing state-supported or  
 107 private school;

108 (d) For a subject requiring a master's or higher degree,  
 109 completion of the subject area specialization requirements  
 110 specified in state board rule and achievement of a passing score  
 111 on the Florida-developed subject area examination or a  
 112 standardized examination specified in state board rule;

113 (e) Documentation of a valid professional standard  
 114 teaching certificate issued by another state;

115 (f) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the  
 116 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national  
 117 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of  
 118 Education;

119 (g) Documentation of successful completion of a United  
 120 States Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center  
 121 program; or

122 (h) Documentation of a passing score on the Defense  
 123 Language Proficiency Test (DLPT).

124  
 125 An individual who holds a certificate pursuant to this section;

126 has served as a classroom teacher, as defined in s.  
127 1012.01(2)(a), for the immediately preceding 3 school years; has  
128 earned an effective or highly effective rating on his or her  
129 evaluation under s. 1012.34 for the immediately preceding 3  
130 school years; and has met the requirements of subsection (6) has  
131 met the requirements of this subsection. School districts are  
132 encouraged to provide mechanisms for middle grades teachers  
133 holding only a K-6 teaching certificate to obtain a subject area  
134 coverage for middle grades through postsecondary coursework or  
135 district add-on certification.

136 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

137 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 5-year ~~2-~~  
138 ~~year~~ temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year  
139 professional certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a  
140 bachelor's degree in the area of speech-language impairment to  
141 allow for completion of a master's degree program in speech-  
142 language impairment.

143 ~~(e)1. A temporary certificate issued under subparagraph~~  
144 ~~(b)1. is valid for 3 school fiscal years and is nonrenewable.~~

145 ~~2.~~ A temporary certificate issued under paragraph (b)  
146 ~~subparagraph (b)2.~~ is valid for 5 school fiscal years, is  
147 limited to a one-time issuance, and is nonrenewable.

148  
149 At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is  
150 set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the

151 individual of the date on which his or her certificate will  
152 expire and provide a list of each method by which the  
153 qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed.  
154 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to allow the  
155 department to extend the validity period of a temporary  
156 certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the  
157 professional certificate were not completed due to the serious  
158 illness or injury of the applicant, the military service of an  
159 applicant's spouse, other extraordinary extenuating  
160 circumstances, or if the certificateholder is rated highly  
161 effective in the immediate prior year's performance evaluation  
162 pursuant to s. 1012.34 or has completed a 2-year mentorship  
163 program pursuant to subsection (8). The department shall extend  
164 the temporary certificate upon approval by the Commissioner of  
165 Education. A written request for extension of the certificate  
166 shall be submitted by the district school superintendent, the  
167 governing authority of a university lab school, the governing  
168 authority of a state-supported school, or the governing  
169 authority of a private school.

170 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.