

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2     An act relating to educator preparation and  
3     certification; amending s. 1004.85, F.S.; authorizing  
4     an educator preparation institute to allow certain  
5     program participants to enroll in introductory  
6     coursework; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; revising the  
7     criteria for the award of a temporary educator  
8     certification to include certain persons with expired  
9     professional certificates; amending s. 1012.585, F.S.;  
10    requiring that subject area coverages and endorsements  
11    for a certificateholder be reinstated with the  
12    certificateholder's professional certificate; revising  
13    requirements for reinstatement of a professional  
14    certificate; providing that certain requirements for  
15    reinstatement of a professional certificate may not be  
16    satisfied using specific inservice points; amending s.  
17    1012.981, F.S.; requiring the Florida Center for  
18    Teaching Excellence to collaborate with the David C.  
19    Anchin Center for the Advancement of Teaching for  
20    specified purposes; requiring, rather than  
21    authorizing, the center to submit a specified  
22    professional learning system for approval by the  
23    department; requiring the center to allow certain  
24    certified educators to use such professional learning  
25    system for specified purposes at no cost to the

educator; requiring the center to submit inservice points for such educators to the department; requiring the center to provide information on certain school district professional learning systems to certain certified educators; providing an effective date.

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

**Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

(3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to this section may offer competency-based certification programs specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate degree holders to enable program participants to meet the educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section must implement a program developed by the institute and approved by the department for this purpose. Approved programs shall be available for use by other approved educator preparation institutes.

(b) Each program participant must:

1. Meet certification requirements pursuant to s. 1012.56(1) by obtaining an eligible ~~a~~ statement of status of

51 eligibility in the certification subject area of the educational  
52 plan and meet the requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f) before  
53 participating in field experiences. An educator preparation  
54 institute may allow a program participant to enroll in and  
55 complete coursework while the participant is working to obtain  
56 an eligible statement of status of eligibility in the  
57 certification subject area of the educational plan.

58 2. Demonstrate competency and participate in field  
59 experiences that are appropriate to his or her educational plan  
60 prepared under paragraph (a). Beginning with candidates entering  
61 an educator preparation institute in the 2022-2023 school year,  
62 a candidate for certification in a coverage area identified  
63 pursuant to s. 1012.585(3)(f) must successfully complete all  
64 competencies for a reading endorsement, including completion of  
65 the endorsement practicum through the candidate's field  
66 experience, in order to graduate from the program.

67 3. Before completion of the program, fully demonstrate his  
68 or her ability to teach the subject area for which he or she is  
69 seeking certification by documenting a positive impact on  
70 student learning growth in a prekindergarten through grade 12  
71 setting and, except as provided in s. 1012.56(7)(a)3., achieving  
72 a passing score on the professional education competency  
73 examination, the basic skills examination, and the subject area  
74 examination for the subject area certification which is required  
75 by state board rule.

**Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

(7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

(b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to any applicant who:

1. Completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the Department of Education at the level required for the subject area specialization in state board rule;

2. For a subject area specialization for which the state board otherwise requires a bachelor's degree, documents 48 months of active-duty military service with an honorable discharge or a medical separation; completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs (2)(a), (b), and (d)-(f); completes the subject area content requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5); and documents completion of 60 college credits with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, as provided by one or more accredited institutions of higher learning or a nonaccredited institution of higher learning identified by the Department of Education as having a

101 quality program resulting in a bachelor's degree or higher; ~~or~~

102 3. Is enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation  
103 program under s. 1004.04; is actively completing the required  
104 program field experience or internship at a public school;  
105 completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs (2)(a), (b),  
106 and (d)-(f); completes the subject area content requirements  
107 specified in state board rule or demonstrates mastery of subject  
108 area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5); and documents  
109 completion of 60 college credits with a minimum cumulative grade  
110 point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, as provided by one or more  
111 accredited institutions of higher learning or a nonaccredited  
112 institution of higher learning identified by the Department of  
113 Education as having a quality program resulting in a bachelor's  
114 degree or higher; or.

115 4. Completes the requirements in paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and  
116 whose previously issued professional certificate has expired.

117  
118 At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is  
119 set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the  
120 individual of the date on which his or her certificate will  
121 expire and provide a list of each method by which the  
122 qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed.

123 **Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 1012.585, Florida**  
124 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

125 1012.585 Process for renewal or reinstatement of

professional certificates.—

(5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to allow the reinstatement of expired professional certificates, including each subject area coverage and endorsement held by the certificateholder at the time of the certificate's expiration.

The department may reinstate an expired professional certificate if the certificateholder:

(a) Submits an application for reinstatement of the expired certificate.

(b) Completes the requirements in s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f).

(c) ~~(b)~~ Documents completion of 6 college credits during the 5 years immediately preceding reinstatement of the expired certificate, completion of 120 inservice points, or a combination thereof, in an area specified in paragraph (3)(a) to include the credit required under paragraph (3)(e).

~~(c) During the 5 years immediately preceding reinstatement of the certificate, achieves a passing score on the Florida-developed subject area examination or, if a Florida subject area examination has not been developed, a standardized examination specified in state board rule for each subject to be shown on the reinstated certificate.~~

The requirements of this subsection may not be satisfied by ~~subject area examinations or~~ college credits or inservice points completed for issuance of the certificate that has expired.

151       **Section 4. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 1012.981,**  
152 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

153       1012.981 The Florida Center for Teaching Excellence.—

154       (2) The center shall, in collaboration with the David C.  
155 Anchin Center for the Advancement of Innovative Teaching within  
156 ~~and Learning at~~ the University of South Florida, do all of the  
157 following:

158       (a) Develop and deliver evidence-based professional  
159 learning opportunities aligned to the Florida Educator  
160 Accomplished Practices.

161       (b) Develop and deliver educator training programs  
162 pursuant to s. 1012.98 that integrate high-quality instructional  
163 materials included on the state-adopted instructional materials  
164 list under s. 1006.28, materials evaluated and identified  
165 pursuant to s. 1001.215(4), and materials developed by or under  
166 the direction of the department as provided in s. 1006.39. These  
167 programs must focus on the effective use of knowledge-based  
168 curricula, highlighting when and how to incorporate intervention  
169 materials, and emphasize the importance of background knowledge  
170 in building advanced reading comprehension grounded in the  
171 science of reading and critical thinking skills.

172       (c) Develop and design models of high-quality clinical  
173 experiences for aspiring teachers. These model experiences shall  
174 serve as a standard that institutions approved pursuant to ss.  
175 1004.04 and 1004.85 can adopt or adapt, enabling participants to

176 demonstrate mastery of instructional techniques, classroom  
177 management strategies, and the application of high-impact  
178 teaching strategies in authentic educational settings.

179 (d) Collaborate with school districts and other  
180 educational stakeholders to identify emerging needs in teacher  
181 preparation and align center programs accordingly, conducting  
182 gap analyses to provide comprehensive coverage of the science of  
183 learning, high-impact teaching strategies, and knowledge-rich  
184 curriculum implementation.

185 (e) Establish a statewide network of teachers and  
186 instructional leaders equipped with the knowledge and skills to  
187 mentor and support aspiring and current educators participating  
188 in the center's programs. This network shall model effective  
189 pedagogical practices and facilitate professional growth.

190 (f) Conduct research and disseminate findings on high-  
191 impact teaching practices and the implementation of knowledge-  
192 based curricula to inform policy, improve classroom instruction,  
193 and address the importance of background knowledge in student  
194 achievement.

195 (g) Report to the department the completion of  
196 professional learning by individuals who are not employed by  
197 entities with an approved professional learning system.

198 (3) The center:

199 (a) Must ~~may~~ submit a professional learning system for  
200 approval pursuant to s. 1012.98.



201        (b) Shall allow a certified educator seeking to renew or  
202        reinstate his or her certificate to use the system at no cost  
203        and submit any inservice points earned by the educator through  
204        the system to the department on the educator's behalf.

205        (c) Shall provide a certified educator seeking to renew or  
206        reinstate a certificate with information on school district  
207        professional learning systems that provide access to inservice  
208        training to persons not employed by the school district.

209        **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.