AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," in certification of teachers, repealing certificates issued by other states and providing for out-of-state applicants for certifications.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 1206 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is repealed:

[Section 1206. Certificates Issued by Other States.--(a) Candidates holding a valid instructional certificate issued by another state may be eligible for comparable Pennsylvania certification provided that the candidate meets the following requirements:

(1) Holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

(2) Has at least two (2) years of successful classroom
experience.

(3) Demonstrates subject matter competency in the applicable area of Pennsylvania certification.

(4) Satisfies the requirements of section 1209.

(b) The Secretary of Education shall adopt standards and guidelines as necessary to implement this section.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary of Education from certifying out-of-State applicants in accordance with regulations of the Department of Education or the State Board of Education.

Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 1206.1. Out-of-State Applicants for Certification.--

(a) Candidates from other states seeking Pennsylvania certification must satisfy one of the following:

(1) The candidate must hold a valid and current instructional certificate issued by another state and satisfy the following:

   (i) Completion of a college or university educator preparation program approved by the certifying state, satisfaction of testing requirements demonstrating subject matter competency in the applicable area of Pennsylvania certification, including passage of equivalent content tests required by the certifying state and field experience.

   (ii) For a candidate who has taught on the out-of-state certificate, presentation to the department evidence of satisfactory professional educator experience for the candidate's two most recent years of classroom teaching.

(2) The candidate must hold a valid certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. A candidate with a certificate shall be granted the highest-level
Pennsylvania certification available in the candidate's area of certification.

(b) An out-of-state candidate who satisfies the requirements of subsection (a) must also satisfy this Commonwealth's requirements under sections 1202 and 1209.

(c) An out-of-state candidate who is seeking Pennsylvania certification in a subject identified by the department as a shortage area and meets the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) shall be issued the appropriate certificate on an expedited basis in accordance with this section.

Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.