

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1198 Session of  
2001

INTRODUCED BY CONTI, LEMMOND, HELFRICK, ERICKSON, ORIE AND  
MOWERY, NOVEMBER 8, 2001

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 8, 2001

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," further providing for certificates  
6 qualifying persons to teach and for kinds of State  
7 certificates; and providing for a K-3 certification and  
8 certain loan forgiveness.

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

11 Section 1. Section 1201 of the act of March 10, 1949  
12 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
13 amended January 14, 1970 (1969, P.L.468, No.192), is amended to  
14 read:

15 Section 1201. Certificates Qualifying Persons to Teach.--

16 Only those persons holding one of the following certificates  
17 shall be qualified to teach in the public schools of this  
18 Commonwealth--(1) Permanent college certificate, (2) provisional  
19 college certificate, (3) normal school diploma, (4) normal  
20 school certificate, (5) special permanent certificate, (6)

1 special temporary certificate, (7) permanent State certificate,  
2 (8) certificates which are permanent licenses to teach by virtue  
3 of the provisions of section one thousand three hundred eight of  
4 the act, approved the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine  
5 hundred eleven (Pamphlet Laws 309), as amended, which is  
6 repealed hereby, [or] (9) K-3 certificate or (10) such other  
7 kinds of certificates as are issued under the standards  
8 prescribed by the State Board of Education. The State Board of  
9 Education shall also provide for issuance of certificates by  
10 district superintendents to meet such emergencies or shortage of  
11 teachers as may occur.

12 Section 2. Section 1203 of the act is amended to read:

13 Section 1203. Kinds of State Certificates.--State  
14 certificates hereafter granted shall include the following:

15 Provisional College Certificates,

16 Permanent College Certificates,

17 Certificates issued by other states and validated by the  
18 Superintendent of Public Instruction,

19 Special Temporary Certificates,

20 Special Permanent Certificates,

21 K-3 Certificates.

22 All persons receiving any of such certificates shall have  
23 qualifications not less than graduation from a State Teachers'  
24 College of this Commonwealth, or equivalent training.

25 Every college certificate shall set forth the names of the  
26 college or university from which its holder was graduated. State  
27 certificates shall entitle their holders to teach in every part  
28 of this Commonwealth for the terms herein specified.

29 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

30 Section 1216. K-3 Certificates; Loan Forgiveness.--(a) The

1 Secretary of Education shall issue a K-3 certificate to every  
2 person who presents to him satisfactory evidence of good moral  
3 character, of being a graduate of an approved college or  
4 university, a recommendation from the college or university that  
5 the person receive the K-3 certification, and successful  
6 experience of one year in a student teaching instructional  
7 internship in a public school classroom from kindergarten  
8 through third grade in this Commonwealth.

9 (b) (1) A person who earned at least a 3.00 grade point  
10 average upon graduation from an approved college or university,  
11 has borrowed moneys through the Guaranteed Student Loan Programs  
12 administered by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
13 Agency, has received a K-3 certificate under this section, is  
14 employed as a full-time teacher in a public school classroom  
15 from kindergarten through third grade in this Commonwealth, and  
16 agrees to teach in a public school classroom from kindergarten  
17 through third grade in this Commonwealth for a period of five  
18 (5) years shall be eligible for payment by the agency of a  
19 portion of that debt incurred by the person.

20 (2) For each academic year that the person is employed as a  
21 full-time teacher in a public school classroom from kindergarten  
22 through third grade in this Commonwealth, the agency may forgive  
23 a proportional part of the person's loan so that the loan may be  
24 entirely forgiven over five (5) years of full-time teaching. No  
25 more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall be forgiven in  
26 any year and no more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)  
27 shall be forgiven for any person. Payments shall be made in  
28 accordance with the procedures established by the agency.

29 (c) This section shall not apply to any person who has a  
30 certificate from the Department of Education on the effective

1 date of this section.

2 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.