THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 2683 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY SCHROEDER, DeLUCA, DRISCOLL, FARRY, GILLEN, HILL-EVANS, JONES, McNEILL, D. MILLER, MOUL, ORTITAY, POLINCHOCK, READSHAW, ROZZI, SCHWEYER, STAATS, THOMAS, TOMLINSON, TOPPER AND ROEBUCK, JULY 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JULY 13, 2020

AN ACT

1 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, providing for special provisions applicable to 2020-2021 school year.

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

Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 1207.4. Special Provisions Applicable to 2020-2021 School Year.--(a) Beginning on the effective date of this subsection and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Secretary of Education may do any or all of the following:

(1) Waive the requirement to satisfactorily complete the assessment of basic skills required under section 1207.3 and 22__
(2) Issue a temporary provisional certificate to an educator who has completed a preparation program and meets all requirements for certification except the satisfactory completion of the assessments required pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 49.18(c) because the assessments were canceled or could not be scheduled. A temporary provisional certificate issued under this paragraph shall expire after one year of issuance and may be converted to a Level I Pennsylvania certificate upon submission of evidence of satisfactory completion of the required assessments to the Department of Education. This paragraph shall expire on June 30, 2021.

(3) Issue an exceptional case permit for a professional employee at the request of a school entity that employs the professional employee who completed the final year of Level I Pennsylvania certificate validity in the 2019-2020 school year and who was unable to complete the assessment requirements for conversion to a Level II Pennsylvania certificate under 22 Pa. Code § 49.18(a)(2)(iii) because the assessments were canceled or could not be scheduled. The exceptional case permit shall expire one year from the date of issuance. This paragraph shall expire on June 30, 2021.

(4) Issue a temporary certificate to an individual who is unable to complete the appropriate subject matter test for areas other than health and physical education, cooperative education, all special education areas and additional areas as may be determined by the Department of Education under 22 Pa. Code § 49.18(e) when the Department of Education determines that the relevant assessment has been canceled or could not be scheduled.
An individual who provides evidence as required by the Department of Education indicating that the individual attempted to access testing and was denied registration may be eligible for issuance of a temporary certificate under this paragraph. The temporary certificate shall expire one year from the date of issuance and may be converted to a full instructional certificate by providing proof of satisfactory achievement on the required test to the Department of Education. This paragraph shall expire June 30, 2021.

(b) Beginning on the effective date of this subsection and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the deadline by which any paraprofessional employed by a school entity as of March 13, 2020, must satisfy staff development activity hour requirements under 22 Pa. Code § 14.105 (relating to personnel) shall be extended until June 30, 2021. This subsection shall expire one year from the effective date of this subsection.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.