
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1216 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, STEFANO, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL,
J. WARD, AUMENT, PITTMAN, REGAN, BROWNE, TARTAGLIONE,
KILLION, SABATINA, VOGEL, SCAVELLO, BOSCOLA, COLLETT, BLAKE,
SANTARSIERO, BAKER, IOVINO, MUTH AND BREWSTER, JUNE 19, 2020

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 19, 2020

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," in certification of teachers,
6 providing for special provisions applicable to 2020-2021
7 school year.

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

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

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

18 (1) Waive the requirement to satisfactorily complete the
19 assessment of basic skills required under section 1207.3 and 22

1 Pa. Code § 49.18(c) (relating to assessment) during the 2020-
2 2021 school year. This paragraph shall expire June 30, 2021.

3 (2) Issue a temporary provisional certificate to an educator
4 who has completed a preparation program and meets all
5 requirements for certification except the satisfactory
6 completion of the assessments required pursuant to 22 Pa. Code §
7 49.18(c) because the assessments were canceled or could not be
8 scheduled. A temporary provisional certificate issued under this
9 paragraph shall expire after one year of issuance and may be
10 converted to a Level I Pennsylvania certificate upon submission
11 of evidence of satisfactory completion of the required
12 assessments to the Department of Education. This paragraph shall
13 expire on June 30, 2021.

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

24 (4) Issue a temporary certificate to an individual who is
25 unable to complete the appropriate subject matter test for areas
26 other than health and physical education, cooperative education,
27 all special education areas and additional areas as may be
28 determined by the Department of Education under 22 Pa. Code §
29 49.18(e) when the Department of Education determines that the
30 relevant assessment has been canceled or could not be scheduled.

1 An individual who provides evidence as required by the
2 Department of Education indicating that the individual attempted
3 to access testing and was denied registration may be eligible
4 for issuance of a temporary certificate under this paragraph.
5 The temporary certificate shall expire one year from the date of
6 issuance and may be converted to a full instructional
7 certificate by providing proof of satisfactory achievement on
8 the required test to the Department of Education. This paragraph
9 shall expire June 30, 2021.

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

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.