

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 202 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, EICHELBERGER, ERICKSON, GREENLEAF,
TARTAGLIONE, WAUGH, M. WHITE AND WILLIAMS, JANUARY 20, 2011

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 20, 2011

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 postbaccalaureate
8 certification.

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)
21 special temporary certificate, (7) permanent State certificate,

1 (8) residency certificate, (9) intern certificate, (10)
2 certificates which are permanent licenses to teach by virtue of
3 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6 repealed hereby, or [(9)] (11) such other kinds of certificates
7 as are issued under the standards prescribed by the State Board
8 of Education. The State Board of Education shall also provide
9 for issuance of certificates by district superintendents to meet
10 such emergencies or shortage of teachers as may occur.

11 Section 2. Sections 1203 and 1206 of the act are amended to
12 read:

13 Section 1203. Kinds of State Certificates.--(a) 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 Residency Certificates,

22 Intern Certificates.

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

26 Postbaccalaureate certification programs, including residency,
27 intern and administrative certification programs completed under
28 section 1207.1, are equivalent training for purposes of this
29 act.

30 (c) Every college certificate shall set forth the names of

1 the college or university from which its holder was graduated.
2 State certificates shall entitle their holders to teach in every
3 part of this Commonwealth for the terms herein specified.

4 Section 1206. Certificates Issued by Other States.--[The
5 Superintendent of Public Instruction may validate in this
6 Commonwealth teachers' certificates issued by other states, or
7 by the State normal schools or colleges of other states, whose
8 requirements are equivalent to those of this Commonwealth. Such
9 validation of certificates may be revoked by the Superintendent
10 of Public Instruction at any time.] (a) Candidates holding a
11 valid instructional certificate issued by another state may be
12 eligible for comparable Pennsylvania certification provided that
13 the candidate meets the following requirements:

14 (1) Holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited
15 college or university.

16 (2) Has at least three (3) years of successful professional
17 experience.

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

20 (4) Satisfies the requirements of section 1209.

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

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

24 Section 1207.1. Postbaccalaureate Certification.--(a)
25 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
26 Secretary of Education shall have all of the following powers
27 and duties with regard to postbaccalaureate certification
28 programs:

29 (1) Evaluate and approve, in accordance with this section,
30 all postbaccalaureate certification programs, including

1 accelerated programs, leading to the certification of
2 professional personnel including intern certification programs,
3 residency certification programs and administrative
4 certification programs.

5 (2) Evaluate and approve qualified providers of
6 postbaccalaureate certification programs, which may include
7 providers other than institutions of higher education.

8 (3) Develop guidelines for the approval of postbaccalaureate
9 instructional certification programs, which shall include:

10 (i) Instruction and training in the following:

11 (A) Educational strategies for the designated subject area.

12 (B) Child development specifically related to the level of
13 the certificate sought.

14 (C) Professional ethics and responsibilities.

15 (D) Pennsylvania academic standards.

16 (E) Assessment knowledge and skills.

17 (F) Accommodations and adaptations for students with
18 disabilities in an inclusive setting.

19 (G) Strategies for meeting instructional needs of English
20 language learners.

21 (ii) Requirements for candidate oversight and mentoring that
22 include field placement, student teaching, classroom
23 observations and ongoing support for novice educators in
24 partnership with local education agencies during their induction
25 period, including observation, consultation and assessment that
26 includes close supervision by a professional employe.

27 (4) Issue certificates in accordance with this section to
28 qualified candidates.

29 (5) Adopt standards and guidelines as necessary to implement
30 this section.

1 (b) (1) The Secretary of Education may make a one-time
2 issuance of a residency certificate for service in a specific
3 shortage area of instruction in public schools of this
4 Commonwealth to an applicant who meets all of the following:

5 (i) Satisfies the requirements specified under section 1209.

6 (ii) Meets one of the following:

7 (A) Holds a doctoral degree from an accredited college or
8 university in the subject area of shortage.

9 (B) Holds a master's degree from an accredited college or
10 university in the subject area of shortage and has at least two
11 (2) years of work experience in the subject area or related
12 field.

13 (C) Holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or
14 university in the subject area of shortage and has at least five
15 (5) years of work experience in the subject area or related
16 field.

17 (iii) Is continuously enrolled in an approved residency
18 program.

19 (iv) Presents evidence of satisfactory achievement on the
20 appropriate subject area content test.

21 (2) A residency certificate shall be valid for three (3)
22 years of teaching in the public schools of this Commonwealth in
23 the area for which it applies.

24 (3) The Secretary of Education shall have all of the
25 following powers and duties related to the issuance of residency
26 certificates:

27 (i) Identify areas of certification in which there is a
28 Statewide or regional shortage of qualified teachers.

29 (ii) Develop guidelines for the residency program in
30 accordance with subsection (a).

1 (iii) Issue residency certificates to qualified applicants.

2 (iv) Report annually to the State Board of Education on the
3 number of residency certificates issued under this section.

4 (4) A residency certificate may be converted to an
5 Instructional I Certificate upon the completion of all residency
6 program requirements under Department of Education guidelines
7 and the completion of three (3) years of satisfactory teaching
8 in the public schools of this Commonwealth.

9 (c) (1) Postbaccalaureate instructional intern
10 certification programs shall provide flexible and accelerated
11 pedagogical training to teachers who have demonstrated subject
12 matter competency in a subject area related to their
13 certification, provided that the first year of teaching includes
14 a minimum of one classroom observation each month by an approved
15 postbaccalaureate certification program provider.

16 (2) The Secretary of Education may make a one-time issuance
17 of a postbaccalaureate instructional intern certificate for
18 service in a specific area of instruction to candidates who, in
19 addition to meeting the requirements of section 1209, present
20 evidence of satisfactory achievement on the department-
21 prescribed subject matter assessments related to the area of
22 certification and hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited
23 college or university. This certificate shall require continuing
24 enrollment in an approved postbaccalaureate instructional intern
25 certification program.

26 (3) A postbaccalaureate instructional intern certificate
27 shall be valid for three (3) years of teaching in the public
28 schools of this Commonwealth and may not be renewed.

29 (4) A candidate shall be issued an Instructional I
30 Certificate upon successful completion of the approved

1 postbaccalaureate instructional intern program provided that the
2 candidate has satisfied the requirements of section 1209.

3 (d) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no
4 person shall be granted an administrative certificate by the
5 Department of Education unless:

6 (i) The candidate holds a bachelor's degree from a
7 regionally accredited college or university.

8 (ii) The candidate has had three (3) years of relevant
9 professional experience.

10 (iii) The candidate satisfies the requirements of section
11 1209.

12 (iv) The candidate has completed in a college or university
13 a graduate program in education approved by the Department of
14 Education or has provided to the Secretary of Education
15 satisfactory evidence that the candidate has successfully
16 completed a leadership development program that meets the
17 Pennsylvania school leadership standards under section 1217.

18 (2) The Secretary of Education may adopt standards and
19 guidelines as necessary to implement this section.

20 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no candidate
21 for certification or admission into a certification preparation
22 program who holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally
23 accredited college or university shall be required to complete
24 the academic preparation requirements of 22 Pa. Code Ch. 354
25 (relating to preparation of professional educators).

26 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.