

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE BILL****No. 202**      Session of  
2011

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INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, EICHELBERGER, ERICKSON, GREENLEAF,  
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JANUARY 20, 2011

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SENATOR PICCOLA, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, APRIL 5, 2011

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## 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)

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7 repealed hereby, or [(9)] (11) such other kinds of certificates  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

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

14 Section 1203. Kinds of State Certificates.--(a) State  
15 certificates hereafter granted shall include the following:

16 Provisional College Certificates,  
17 Permanent College Certificates,  
18 Certificates issued by other states and validated by the  
19 Superintendent of Public Instruction,  
20 Special Temporary Certificates,  
21 Special Permanent Certificates[.],  
22 Residency Certificates,  
23 Intern Certificates.

24 (b) All persons receiving any of such certificates shall  
25 have qualifications not less than graduation from a State  
26 Teachers' College of this Commonwealth, or equivalent training.  
27 Postbaccalaureate certification programs, including residency,  
28 intern and administrative certification programs completed under  
29 section 1207.1, are equivalent training for purposes of this  
30 act.

1 (c) Every college certificate shall set forth the names of  
2 the college or university from which its holder was graduated.  
3 State certificates shall entitle their holders to teach in every  
4 part of this Commonwealth for the terms herein specified.

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

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

17 (2) Has at least ~~three~~ (3) TWO (2) years of successful ←  
18 professional CLASSROOM experience. ←

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

21 (4) Satisfies the requirements of section 1209.

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

24 (C) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT ←  
25 THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION FROM CERTIFYING OUT-OF-STATE  
26 APPLICANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
27 EDUCATION OR THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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

29 Section 1207.1. Postbaccalaureate Certification.--(a)  
30 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the

1 Secretary of Education shall have all of the following powers  
2 and duties with regard to postbaccalaureate certification  
3 programs:

4 (1) Evaluate and approve, in accordance with this section,  
5 all postbaccalaureate certification programs, including  
6 accelerated programs, leading to the certification of  
7 professional personnel including intern certification programs,  
8 residency certification programs and administrative  
9 certification programs.

10 (2) Evaluate and approve qualified providers of  
11 postbaccalaureate certification programs, which may include  
12 providers other than institutions of higher education.

13 (3) Develop guidelines for the approval of FLEXIBLE ←  
14 postbaccalaureate instructional certification programs, which ←  
15 shall include. SUCH PROGRAM GUIDELINES SHALL ADDRESS: ←

16 (i) Instruction and training in the following:

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

18 (B) Child development specifically related to the level of  
19 the certificate sought.

20 (C) Professional ethics and responsibilities.

21 (D) Pennsylvania academic standards.

22 (E) Assessment knowledge and skills.

23 (F) Accommodations and adaptations for students with  
24 disabilities in an inclusive setting.

25 (G) Strategies for meeting instructional needs of English  
26 language learners.

27 (ii) Requirements for candidate oversight and mentoring that  
28 MAY include field placement, student teaching, classroom ←  
29 observations and ongoing support for novice educators in  
30 partnership with local education agencies during their induction

1 period, including observation, consultation and assessment that  
2 includes close supervision by a professional employe.

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

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

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

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

12 (ii) Meets one of the following:

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

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

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

23 (iii) Is continuously enrolled in an approved residency  
24 program.

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

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

30 (3) The Secretary of Education shall have all of the

1 following powers and duties related to the issuance of residency  
2 certificates:

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

5 (ii) Develop guidelines for the residency program in  
6 accordance with subsection (a).

7 (iii) Issue residency certificates to qualified applicants.

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

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

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

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

1 certification program.

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

5 (4) A candidate shall be issued an Instructional I  
6 Certificate upon successful completion of the approved  
7 postbaccalaureate instructional intern program provided that the  
8 candidate has satisfied the requirements of section 1209.

9 (d) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no  
10 person shall be granted an administrative certificate OR A ←  
11 VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR CERTIFICATE by the Department of Education  
12 unless:

13 (i) The candidate holds a bachelor's degree from a ←  
14 regionally AN accredited college or university. ←

15 (ii) The candidate has had three (3) years of relevant  
16 professional experience.

17 (iii) The candidate satisfies the requirements of section  
18 1209.

19 (iv) The candidate has completed in a college or university  
20 a graduate program in education approved by the Department of  
21 Education or has provided to the Secretary of Education, WITHIN ←  
22 ONE YEAR OF RECEIVING THE CERTIFICATE, satisfactory evidence  
23 that the candidate has successfully completed a leadership  
24 development program that meets the Pennsylvania school  
25 leadership standards under section 1217 AND HAS DEMONSTRATED ←  
26 KNOWLEDGE OF BASIC SCHOOL LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

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

29 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no candidate  
30 for certification or admission into a certification preparation

1 program who holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally  
2 accredited college or university shall be required to complete  
3 the academic preparation requirements of 22 Pa. Code Ch. 354  
4 (relating to preparation of professional educators).

5 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.