
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1512 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY BLOOM, CLYMER, DUNBAR, PICKETT, THOMAS, KORTZ,
R. MILLER, ROCK, CUTLER, KAUFFMAN, GINGRICH, AUMENT, GROVE,
MICOZZIE, DENLINGER, COX AND TOOHL, JUNE 10, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 10, 2013

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 minimum educational requirements; further
7 providing for postbaccalaureate certification; providing for
8 baccalaureate certification basic skills assessment; and
9 further providing for disqualifications.

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

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

15 Section 1203.1. Minimum Educational Requirements.--Every
16 person certified to teach in the schools of this Commonwealth
17 shall possess a baccalaureate degree or higher graduate degree
18 as a general education requirement.

19 Section 2. Section 1207.1 of the act of March 10, 1949
20 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added
21 June 30, 2011 (P.L.112, No.24), is amended to read:

1 Section 1207.1. Postbaccalaureate Certification.--* * *

2 (a.1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
3 Department of Education may approve applicants for certification
4 who complete an out-of-State postbaccalaureate certificate
5 program that is comparable to postbaccalaureate certification
6 programs developed under this section. Nothing under this
7 subsection shall be construed to waive any other certification
8 requirements applicable to out-of-State applicants.

9 * * *

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

11 Section 1207.2 Baccalaureate Certification Basic Skills
12 Assessment.--(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
13 the assessment of basic skills required under 22 Pa. Code §
14 49.18 (relating to assessment) shall be completed and a
15 satisfactory achievement level shall be obtained prior to entry
16 into a Pennsylvania baccalaureate teacher preparation program.

17 (b) An assessment of basic skills shall not be required for
18 entry into a Pennsylvania postbaccalaureate teacher preparation
19 program or for any applicant for certification who completes a
20 postbaccalaureate certification program or holds a
21 postbaccalaureate degree.

22 (c) No baccalaureate certification program shall admit a
23 student who has not met the requirements of this section by
24 August 1, 2014.

25 Section 4. Section 1209 of the act, amended November 23,
26 2010 (P.L.1350, No.123), is amended to read:

27 Section 1209. Disqualifications.--No teacher's certificate
28 shall be granted to any person who:

29 [(1) Has not submitted, upon a blank furnished by the
30 Secretary of Education, a certificate from a physician,

1 certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant
2 licensed or certified in this Commonwealth, or in any other
3 state or the District of Columbia, setting forth that the
4 applicant is not disqualified by reason of a mental or physical
5 disability or a communicable disease from the successful
6 performance of the essential functions of a teacher with or
7 without a reasonable accommodation.]

8 (2) Does not have a good moral character.

9 (3) Engages in the illegal use of controlled substances or
10 alcoholic beverages. An applicant for certification may overcome
11 the disqualification under this paragraph and receive a teaching
12 certificate if the applicant is reviewed by the Department of
13 Education pursuant to the requirement of paragraph (2) and
14 determined to be of good moral character.

15 Section 5. The provisions of 22 Pa. Code § 49.12(2) are
16 abrogated.

17 Section 6. This act shall take effect immediately.