
 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, BREWSTER, HUGHES AND
MASTRIANO, JUNE 19, 2020

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, AUGUST 20, 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, FURTHER <--
6 PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONAL CERTIFICATE GRADE SPANS AND AGE
7 LEVELS AND DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT AND providing for special
8 provisions applicable to 2020-2021 school year.

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

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

14 SECTION 1. SECTION 1202.1(A) OF THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 <--
15 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, IS
16 AMENDED BY ADDING A PARAGRAPH TO READ:

17 SECTION 1202.1. INSTRUCTIONAL CERTIFICATE GRADE SPANS AND
18 AGE LEVELS AND DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT.--(A) THE FOLLOWING SHALL

1 APPLY TO SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATES:

2 * * *

3 (1.1) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1), A TEACHER PREPARATION
4 PROGRAM MAY PERMIT AN INDIVIDUAL ENROLLED AT AN INSTITUTION OF
5 HIGHER EDUCATION OR IN AN APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION
6 PROGRAM PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31 2021, AND WHO REMAINS CONTINUOUSLY
7 ENROLLED TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM FOR THE GRADE LEVEL LIMITATIONS
8 PROVIDED UNDER 22 PA. CODE § 49.85(A) AND (B). THE DEPARTMENT
9 MAY ISSUE THE APPROPRIATE SPECIAL EDUCATION-PK-8 OR SPECIAL
10 EDUCATION-7-12 CERTIFICATES TO AN APPLICANT WHO COMPLETES THE
11 PROGRAM AND MEETS ALL OTHER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

12 * * *

13 SECTION 2. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

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

19 (1) Waive the requirement to satisfactorily complete the
20 assessment of basic skills required under section 1207.3 and 22
21 Pa. Code § 49.18(c) (relating to assessment) during the 2020-
22 2021 school year. This paragraph shall expire June 30, 2021.

23 (2) Issue a temporary provisional certificate to an educator
24 who has completed a preparation program and meets all
25 requirements for certification except the satisfactory
26 completion of the assessments required pursuant to 22 Pa. Code §
27 49.18(c) because the assessments were canceled or could not be
28 scheduled. A temporary provisional certificate issued under this
29 paragraph shall expire after one year of issuance and may be
30 converted to a Level I Pennsylvania certificate upon submission

1 of evidence of satisfactory completion of the required
2 assessments to the Department of Education. This paragraph shall
3 expire on June 30, 2021.

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

14 (4) Issue a temporary certificate to an individual who is
15 unable to complete the appropriate subject matter test for areas
16 other than health and physical education, cooperative education,
17 all special education areas and additional areas as may be
18 determined by the Department of Education under 22 Pa. Code §
19 49.18(e) when the Department of Education determines that the
20 relevant assessment has been canceled or could not be scheduled.
21 An individual who provides evidence as required by the
22 Department of Education indicating that the individual attempted
23 to access testing and was denied registration may be eligible
24 for issuance of a temporary certificate under this paragraph.
25 The temporary certificate shall expire one year from the date of
26 issuance and may be converted to a full instructional
27 certificate by providing proof of satisfactory achievement on
28 the required test to the Department of Education. This paragraph
29 shall expire June 30, 2021.

30 (b) Beginning on the effective date of this subsection and

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

8 Section 2 3. This act shall take effect ~~immediately.~~ AS <--
9 FOLLOWS:

10 (1) THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 1202.1(A) SHALL TAKE EFFECT
11 IN 60 DAYS.

12 (2) THE REMAINDER OF THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT
13 IMMEDIATELY.