

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 377

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

TEACHERS. Provides relative to teacher certification requirements. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:7(6)(a)(ii), (b)(i)(aa) and (bb), (ii), and (iv), (c), (d), and (e), 7.1(A) and (B)(1) and (2), and 7.2(C), relative to the certification of teachers; to provide relative to the responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide for teaching certification qualifications and requirements; to provide eligibility criteria; to provide for the granting of teaching certifications; to provide relative to approved teacher education programs; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:7(6)(a)(ii),(b)(i)(aa) and (bb), (ii), and (iv), (c), (d), and (e), 7.1(A) and (B)(1) and (2), and 7.2(C) are hereby amended and reacted to read as follows:

§7. Duties, functions, and responsibilities of board

In addition to the authorities granted by R.S. 17:6 and any powers, duties, and responsibilities vested by any other applicable laws, the board shall:

* * *

(6)(a) * * *

(ii) Additionally, whenever there is a qualification or condition established

1 by law or board policy, or both, that a teacher holding a regular teacher certificate
2 which is valid for three years must comply with, in order for the teacher to be issued
3 a permanent regular teacher certificate, and it is not possible for a teacher at a
4 nonpublic school to comply with such qualification or condition due to the teacher
5 being employed at a nonpublic school, the board shall establish, ~~effective for the~~
6 ~~1998-1999 school year and thereafter~~, an alternative method or process by which the
7 nonpublic school teacher may meet such qualification or condition. A teacher
8 employed in a nonpublic school who meets the qualifications or conditions pursuant
9 to the alternative method or process ~~established pursuant to this Item~~ shall be issued
10 a permanent regular teacher certificate which shall be valid for all purposes in this
11 state and under all the same conditions as if it had been issued to a teacher who
12 complied with the qualifications or conditions as otherwise established by law or
13 board policy. Prior to establishing an alternative method or process, the board shall
14 direct the nonpublic school commission, **established pursuant to R.S. 17:11**, to
15 formulate, develop, and recommend to the board the alternative method or process
16 by which the nonpublic school teacher may meet the qualification or condition and
17 the method or process established by the board shall be consistent with the
18 recommendations of the nonpublic school commission.

19 (b)(i)(aa) A person applying for initial certification as a teacher in a public
20 school shall have passed satisfactorily an examination, which shall include English
21 proficiency, pedagogical knowledge, and knowledge in his area of specialization, as
22 a prerequisite to the granting of such certificate. However, a person who is employed
23 as a foreign language teacher in a Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program
24 pursuant to R.S. 17:273.2, and who is not otherwise eligible to receive state
25 authorization to teach through participation in the Foreign Associate Teacher
26 Program, shall not be required to pass the examination ~~required by this Subitem~~, but
27 shall at least have a baccalaureate degree and shall be subject to all provisions of
28 state law relative to background checks and criminal history review applicable to the
29 employment of public school personnel.

1 (bb) ~~On and after September 15, 1981, any~~ **Any** person certified to teach in
2 another state who applies for certification to teach in the public schools of Louisiana
3 shall be required to pass satisfactorily the examination which is administered in
4 accordance with the provisions of this Paragraph as a prerequisite to the granting of
5 such certification. However, a teacher certified in another state who meets all other
6 requirements for a Louisiana certificate granted to out-of-state graduates except for
7 the provisions of this Item shall be granted a three-year nonrenewable provisional
8 certificate to be used while said teacher completes the requirements set forth in this
9 Paragraph.

10 * * *

11 (ii) The ~~superintendent of education~~ **state Department of Education** shall
12 administer the ~~forementioned~~ policy of the board. In such administration of the
13 policy, the ~~superintendent~~ **department** shall choose the appropriate testing
14 instrument, shall conduct all necessary research to validate the applicability of the
15 instrument to teacher education programs within the state of Louisiana, and shall
16 conduct all necessary research to determine the level at which the examination is
17 satisfactorily completed. During the conduct of the research and in the preparation
18 of the testing instrument, the ~~superintendent~~ **department** shall meet with and
19 consider the suggestions of individual classroom teachers, representatives of teacher
20 organizations, deans of education of the public colleges and universities of the state,
21 and representatives of each of the governing boards for higher education.

22 * * *

23 (iv) The ~~state superintendent of education~~ **department** shall annually submit
24 a report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on
25 Education relative to the **results of the** examination administered pursuant to this
26 Paragraph. Such report shall include ~~but not be limited to the following~~: the number
27 of persons to whom the examination was administered; the educational background
28 and teaching experience of such persons; the number of persons successfully
29 completing the examination; the effectiveness of the examination; and any

1 suggestions for improving the examination.

2 (c) Any person who fails to successfully pass the original examination
3 required by Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, but who meets all other certification
4 requirements and who scored within ten percent of the score required for passage on
5 the original examination ~~selected by the state superintendent of education~~, may be
6 employed for a period not to exceed one year in the following manner:

7 (i) The state superintendent of education, upon receipt of a signed affidavit
8 by the ~~president and superintendent of the school board~~ **designee of the local school**
9 **system** to which such person has applied for employment that there is no other
10 applicant available for employment for a specific teaching position who has met the
11 requirements of this Section, may issue an emergency teaching permit to such
12 person. Such permit shall be in effect for not more than one year but may be renewed
13 twice. Such renewal of the permit shall be accomplished in the same manner as the
14 granting of the original permit. The granting of such emergency teaching permit shall
15 in no way affect, reduce, or waive the requirement that the person successfully
16 complete the ~~mentioned~~ examination. At any time the person successfully
17 passes the examination, he may be employed on a permanent basis.

18 (ii) The period ~~herein provided for the employment of a teacher with an~~
19 **during which a teacher is working under an** emergency teaching permit ~~granted~~
20 ~~under the provisions of this Paragraph~~ shall not count toward tenure.

21 (d) Any examination ~~selected by the state superintendent of education which~~
22 ~~would~~ **to** supercede the examination used pursuant to Subparagraph (b) of this
23 Paragraph and any criteria established to determine the level at which ~~either the~~
24 ~~examination used or any examination selected to supercede it is~~ **deemed**
25 satisfactorily completed shall be approved by the State Board of Elementary and
26 Secondary Education.

27 (e) The board shall not adopt any policy, rule, regulation, or other measure
28 that limits or restricts the number of times a temporary employment permit may be
29 issued to any teacher who meets all other requirements of current board policy, ~~has~~

1 ~~applied for employment for a specific teaching position for which position there is~~
2 ~~no other applicant available for employment who has met the requirements of this~~
3 ~~Paragraph, has the recommendation of the superintendent of the school system~~
4 ~~employing such teacher, and who has had a successful local evaluation for the~~
5 ~~previous four years prior to such issuance. Any such policy, rule, regulation, or other~~
6 ~~measure in effect on July 1, 1993 shall be null and void.~~

7 * * *

8 §7.1. Certification of teachers; certification of principals and superintendents;
9 certification of school psychologists

10 A. In carrying out its responsibility to prescribe the qualifications and provide
11 for the certification of teachers under authority of R.S. 17:7(6), ~~the qualifications and~~
12 ~~requirements established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education~~
13 ~~for certification of any~~ **shall include the following requirements for an** applicant
14 ~~for certification who completes~~ **from** an approved teacher education program in
15 Louisiana ~~shall include but not be limited to the following:~~

16 ~~(2) That the applicant shall have~~ **(1) Have** attained a 2.20 average on a 4.00
17 scale as a condition for entrance into a teacher education program.

18 ~~(3)(a) That the applicant shall have~~ **(2)(a) Have** achieved a 2.50 average on
19 a 4.00 scale at graduation from an approved program.

20 (b) An applicant who has passed all requisite examinations covering pre-
21 professional skills and content knowledge but who does not meet the requirement of
22 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph may be certified if he completes a post-
23 baccalaureate program as ~~provided in this Subparagraph.~~ **follows:**

24 (i) ~~Such an applicant for admission to a post-baccalaureate program may be~~
25 ~~granted conditional admission following a satisfactory personal interview by the~~
26 ~~program's admissions officer.~~

27 (ii) If the program awards credit hours, ~~the applicant shall achieve~~ **have**
28 **achieved** a grade point average of 3.00 or higher in post-baccalaureate program
29 courses by the end of his first twelve credit hours and successfully ~~complete~~

1 **completed** the program.

2 ~~(iii)(ii)~~ If the program does not award credit hours, ~~the applicant shall~~
3 ~~demonstrate~~ **have demonstrated** mastery of competencies as required by the
4 program administrator and by the school system in which ~~the applicant completes~~
5 **he completed his** required clinical practice, and satisfactorily ~~completes~~ **completed**
6 all program requirements as set forth by the state board, ~~including any requirements~~
7 ~~for clinical practice, at graduation.~~

8 (4)(a) For applicants who have participated in any **(3)(a) Have completed,**
9 **if the program is an** undergraduate teacher education program, ~~that the applicant~~
10 ~~shall complete the a~~ prescribed number of semester hours in the teaching of reading
11 as established in policy by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
12 in accordance with the level of certification to be awarded, ~~such.~~ **The** requirement
13 ~~to shall~~ be in addition to requirements for English courses; and ~~such courses in the~~
14 ~~teaching of reading~~ shall emphasize techniques of teaching reading and the
15 recognition and correction of reading problems of the student. For certification at the
16 secondary level, not more than three semester hours in the teaching of reading shall
17 be considered for purposes of meeting certification requirements.

18 (b) For applicants who have participated in any **Have completed, if the**
19 **program is an** alternate teacher education program as provided pursuant to rules and
20 regulations adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, ~~that~~
21 ~~the applicant shall be given the option of either completing either~~ the same amount
22 **number** of semester hours as required ~~for the teaching of reading for undergraduate~~
23 ~~program applicants pursuant to this Paragraph or, in lieu of such semester hour~~
24 ~~requirements, shall~~ **Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or** possess the reading and
25 literacy competencies identified in scientifically based reading research at the
26 national level and approved by the ~~State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~
27 ~~Education for the teaching of reading~~ **board.**

28 (5) That the applicant shall have **(4) Have** spent a minimum of 270 clock
29 hours in student teaching with at least 180 of such hours spent in actual teaching.

1 ~~(6) That the applicant shall have~~ **(5) Have** completed a substantial portion of
2 his 180 hours of actual student teaching on an all-day basis.

3 ~~(7) That, beginning with the fall semester of 1985, each applicant, prior to~~
4 ~~entry into a teacher education program in an institution of higher education, shall~~
5 ~~take a standardized teaching aptitude test which has predictive value for passage of~~
6 ~~the examination required for teacher certification by R.S. 17:7(6)(b). The dean of~~
7 ~~each college of education of an institution which offers a teacher education program~~
8 ~~shall oversee the administration of the examination and shall see that each student~~
9 ~~shall be informed of the results of the test and shall be counseled with regard to the~~
10 ~~significance of the results. The deans of the colleges of education of the institutions~~
11 ~~which offer a teacher education program shall meet and collectively choose the~~
12 ~~entrance examination and shall determine the level at which the examination~~
13 ~~indicates probable success. They shall submit their recommendations to the Board~~
14 ~~of Regents for approval no later than December 31, 1984. Such examination shall not~~
15 ~~be required or administered until approved by the Board of Regents. Nothing herein~~
16 ~~shall be construed as preempting or diminishing the teacher education program~~
17 ~~admission standards previously adopted by the Board of Regents.~~

18 ~~(7) That, beginning with the fall semester of 1985, each applicant, prior to~~
19 ~~entry into a teacher education program in an institution of higher education, shall~~
20 ~~have satisfactorily passed a standardized teaching aptitude test which has predictive~~
21 ~~value for passage of the examination required for teacher certification by R.S.~~
22 ~~17:7(6)(b). The dean of each college of education of an institution which offers a~~
23 ~~teacher education program shall oversee the administration of the examination and~~
24 ~~may at his discretion, make exceptions for students in certain cases. The deans of the~~
25 ~~colleges of education of each institution which offers a teacher education program~~
26 ~~shall meet and collectively choose the entrance examination and shall determine the~~
27 ~~level at which the examination is satisfactorily completed. They shall submit their~~
28 ~~recommendations to the Board of Regents for approval no later than December 31,~~
29 ~~1984. Such examination shall not be required or administered until approved by the~~

1 Board of Regents:

2 B.(1) ~~After August 15, 1986, except as otherwise provided in Paragraph (2)~~
3 ~~of this Subsection, any persons~~ **At a minimum, any person** applying for initial
4 certification as a principal or vice, assistant, or deputy principal, ~~hereafter~~ referred
5 to **in this Paragraph** as a principal, ~~in addition to any other requirements of the State~~
6 ~~Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,~~ shall have passed the administrative
7 portion of the National Teachers Examination produced by the Educational Testing
8 Service. **The state board shall determine the satisfactory passage level** at a level
9 ~~determined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education not later than~~
10 ~~August 1, 1986, which determination shall be based on a validation study to be~~
11 ~~completed by the board no later than July 31, 1986. The validation study shall be~~
12 **and** submitted to the ~~Joint Committee~~ **Senate and House committees** on Education
13 **education** for **approval** its review prior to adoption of a passage score.

14 (2) ~~Beginning August 15, 2003, and thereafter, any~~ **At a minimum any**
15 ~~person applying for initial certification as a principal or superintendent,~~ ~~in addition~~
16 ~~to any other requirements of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~
17 ~~Education,~~ shall have satisfactorily passed the appropriate assessment instrument
18 selected by the board at a level determined by the board **in the same manner as**
19 **provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.**

20 * * *

21 §7.2. Approved teacher education programs

22 * * *

23 C. In adopting requirements for approval of teacher education programs
24 ~~pursuant to this Section~~ **and the completion of the programs,** the board shall
25 ~~provide that such requirements shall not~~ **make such requirements** be applicable to
26 students enrolled in an approved teacher education program in Louisiana on the
27 effective date ~~of this Section~~ **of the adoption of the requirement,** unless the board
28 finds that any such requirement can be made applicable without undue hardship to
29 the student. ~~The board shall provide that requirements adopted pursuant to~~

1 Paragraphs (4) and (5) of Subsection A shall not be applicable to students enrolled
 2 in an approved teacher education program in Louisiana on the effective date of such
 3 Paragraphs, unless the board finds that any such requirement can be made applicable
 4 without undue hardship to the student.

5 * * *

6 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 7 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 8 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 9 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 10 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

DIGEST

SB 377 Original

2022 Regular Session

Peacock

Present law (R.S. 17:7) provides relative to the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) which includes prescribing the qualifications of teachers and providing for the certification of teachers.

Proposed law retains present law. Proposed law removes outdated provisions, corrects terminology, and clarifies present law.

Present law (R.S. 17:7.1) provides certain qualifications and requirements that BESE shall require of an applicant seeking teaching certification.

Proposed law retains present law. Proposed law corrects terminology and removes conflicting provisions from present law.

Present law (R.S. 17:7.2) provides, relative to approved teacher education programs, that present law changes to board policies are not to be applicable to students already enrolled in an approved program in Louisiana at the time the changes are made, unless the board finds that any such change can be made without undue hardship to the students enrolled.

Proposed law clarifies present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:7(6)(a)(ii), (b)(i)(aa) and (bb), (ii), and (iv), and (c), (d), and (e), 7.1(A) and (B)(1) and (2), and 7.2(C))