

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 81

BY SENATOR MCMATH

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TEACHERS. Provides for the associate educator program. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:7.8, relative to the qualifications of public school teachers; to provide for the associate educator program; to provide for minimum requirements for individuals participating in the program; to provide relative to pay of program participants; to provide relative to rules for the program; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:7.8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§7.8. Associate educator program; authority; rules; participant requirements

A.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may provide for the associate educator program through which a governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school may authorize certain individuals with associate's degrees to serve as teachers.

(2) The state board shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the implementation and administration of this Section and may provide by rule for additional qualifications and requirements for the program that are not inconsistent with this Section.

1 (3) A governing authority may establish stricter participation
2 requirements than those provided pursuant to this Section or by the rules
3 promulgated by the state board.

4 B. An individual who serves as a teacher through the program
5 authorized by this Section, referred to in this Section as a "participant", shall:

6 (1) Have an associate's degree from an accredited college or university.

7 (2) Be continuously enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at an
8 accredited college or university for the purpose of obtaining a bachelor's degree.

9 (3) Be at least twenty-one years of age.

10 (4) Meet all other qualifications provided pursuant to this Section, board
11 rules, or requirements of the governing authority.

12 C. An individual shall not participate in the program for more than five
13 years.

14 D.(1) A participant shall be employed to teach only in the content area
15 related to the participant's associate's degree.

16 (2) A participant shall not teach in a class for students with identified
17 exceptionalities, unless the students are identified as gifted or talented.

18 E. For a participant enrolled in an approved teacher education program,
19 the hours spent teaching as a participant shall count towards the student
20 teaching hours required pursuant to R.S. 17:7.1.

21 F. No more than ten percent of the teaching staff of the governing
22 authority shall be program participants.

23 G. The salary paid to a participant shall not exceed seventy-five percent
24 of the average yearly classroom teacher salary of the employing school system.

25 H. Subject to the appropriation of funds for such purpose, the governing
26 authority shall assign a mentor teacher to a participant for the purposes of
27 providing on-site teacher training, demonstrating lessons, co-teaching,
28 observation, and providing feedback for improving instruction.

29 I. Each participant shall participate in weekly teacher collaborations.

Proposed law requires the governing authority to conduct a criminal history record check prior to allowing a participant to work as a teacher.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:7.8)