

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 197

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

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

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

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:587.1(A), (B)(1)(a), (C)(introductory paragraph), (D)(2), and (E) and R.S. 17:7(6), 7.1, and 15(B), (C), and (E)(1), to enact R.S. 17:8.1 through 8.9, and to repeal R.S. 17:7(6)(e) and (10), relative to the certification of educators and school personnel; to provide for conditional admission into an approved teacher education program; to provide for alternative certification for certain persons; to provide relative to teachers certified in other states; to remove requirements for certain teaching authorizations and certifications; to provide relative to the qualifications and certifications of principals, superintendents, and school psychologists; to provide relative to criminal background checks for certification and authorization to teach; to provide consistency in terminology; to recodify and redesignate certain current provisions of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 into a new format and number scheme, to be comprised of R.S. 17:8.1 through 8.9 without changing the text of the provisions except as provided in this instrument; to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the format and number scheme provided in this instrument; to direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to change references to segments of law in existing statutes and codes as

1 necessary to reflect the redesignation of those segments as provided in this  
 2 instrument; and to provide for related matters.

3 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

4 Section 1. R.S. 17:7(6), 7.1, and 15(B), (C), and (E)(1) are hereby amended and  
 5 reenacted, and R.S. 17:8.1 through 8.9 are enacted to read as follows:

6 §7. Duties, functions, and responsibilities of board

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

9 \* \* \*

10 (6)~~(a)~~**(i)** Prescribe the qualifications and provide for the certification of  
 11 teachers in accordance with applicable law, which qualifications and requirements  
 12 shall ensure that certification shall be a reliable indicator of the minimum current  
 13 ability and proficiency of the teacher to educate at the grade level and in the subjects  
 14 to which the teacher is assigned.

15 (ii) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.1(C)]

16 (b) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.2(A) and (B)(introductory paragraph) and (1)]

17 (i) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.2(B)(2)]

18 (ii) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.2(C)]

19 (iii) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.2(D)]

20 (iv) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.2(E)]

21 (v) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.2(F)]

22 (vi) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.2(G)]

23 (c) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.3]

24 (d) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.2(H)]

25 (e) [Repealed]

26 (f) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.8]

27 (g) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.5]

28 (h) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.7(B)]

29 (i) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.7(C)]

1 \* \* \*

2 ~~§7.1.~~§8.1. Certification of teachers; ~~certification of principals and superintendents;~~  
3 ~~certification of school psychologists~~

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

9 (1) Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year, that each approved teacher  
10 education program shall not require more than one hundred twenty semester hours  
11 of college credit for degree completion, inclusive of any classroom observation time  
12 or mentorship requirements. Programs designated by the Board of Regents as dual  
13 degrees or dual certifications shall be permitted to exceed the one-hundred-  
14 twenty-semester-hour credit limit.

15 (2) That the applicant shall have attained a 2.20 average on a 4.00 scale as a  
16 condition for entrance into a teacher education program. **However, an applicant**  
17 **who has not attained a 2.20 average may be granted conditional acceptance into**  
18 **a teacher education program. In order for a student granted conditional**  
19 **acceptance to continue in a teacher education program that awards credit**  
20 **hours, the student shall achieve a 3.00 average on the first twelve credit hours**  
21 **of the program. In order for a student granted conditional acceptance to**  
22 **continue in a teacher education program that does not award credit hours, the**  
23 **student shall demonstrate mastery of competencies as required by the program**  
24 **and by the school system in which the applicant completes required clinical**  
25 **practice.**

26 (3)(a) That the applicant shall have achieved a 2.50 average on a 4.00 scale  
27 at graduation from an approved program.

28 (b) An applicant who has passed all requisite examinations covering  
29 pre-professional skills and content knowledge but who does not meet the

1 requirement of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph may be certified if ~~he completes~~  
2 **upon completion of** a post-baccalaureate program, or ~~he may be employed as a~~  
3 teacher for a period not to exceed five years in the following manner:

4 (i) ~~The state superintendent of education, upon receipt of a signed affidavit~~  
5 ~~by the president and superintendent of the school board to which such person has~~  
6 ~~applied for employment that there is no other applicant available for employment for~~  
7 ~~a specific teaching position who has met the requirements of this Section, may issue~~  
8 ~~an emergency teaching permit to such person. Such permit shall be in effect for not~~  
9 ~~more than five years.~~

10 (ii) ~~After five years of effective teaching evaluations pursuant to R.S.~~  
11 ~~17:3902 and upon a signed affidavit of a superintendent of a school system~~  
12 ~~recommending to employ the person for the following school year subject to the~~  
13 ~~receipt of a valid Louisiana teaching certificate, the person shall be granted a valid~~  
14 ~~standard professional level teaching certificate by the state superintendent of~~  
15 ~~education, subject only to passing all provisions of law relative to background checks~~  
16 ~~and criminal history review~~ **granted a provisional teaching permit pursuant to**  
17 **R.S. 17:8.3.**

18 (4)(a) ~~For applicants who have participated in any undergraduate teacher~~  
19 ~~education program, that the~~ **The** applicant shall **meet at least one of the following**  
20 **requirements:**

21 **(a) complete Complete** the prescribed number of semester hours in the  
22 teaching of reading as established in policy by the State Board of Elementary and  
23 Secondary Education in accordance with the level of certification to be awarded;  
24 ~~such.~~ **The** requirement to **shall** be in addition to requirements for English courses;  
25 ~~and such.~~ **The** courses in the teaching of reading shall emphasize techniques of  
26 teaching reading and the recognition and correction of reading problems of the  
27 student **that are based on the science of reading and designed for educators and**  
28 **that include information on instructing students regarding phonemic awareness,**  
29 **phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.** ~~For certification at the~~

1 secondary level, not more than three semester hours in the teaching of reading shall  
2 be considered for purposes of meeting certification requirements.

3 (b) For applicants who have participated in any alternate teacher education  
4 program as provided pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the State Board of  
5 Elementary and Secondary Education, that the applicant shall be given the option of  
6 either completing the same amount of semester hours as required for the teaching of  
7 reading for undergraduate program applicants pursuant to this Paragraph or, in lieu  
8 of such semester hour requirements, shall possess **Possess** the reading and literacy  
9 competencies identified in scientifically based reading research at the national level  
10 and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for the  
11 teaching of reading.

12 (5) That the applicant shall have spent a minimum of 270 **two hundred**  
13 **seventy** clock hours in student teaching with at least 180 of such **one hundred**  
14 **eighty** hours spent in actual teaching.

15 (6) That the applicant shall have completed a substantial portion of his 180  
16 **the one hundred eighty** hours of actual student teaching on an all-day basis.

17 *[Effective Date: Text of Paragraph (A)(8) (A)(7) effective on January 1, 2024.]*

18 *(7)(8) That an applicant who is applying for initial certification to teach*  
19 *kindergarten through third grade shall, as part of the examination required pursuant*  
20 *to R.S. 17:7(6)(b) **R.S. 17:8.2**, pass a rigorous test of scientifically researched,*  
21 *evidence-based reading instruction and intervention, including data-based*  
22 *decisionmaking principles related to reading instruction and intervention, as*  
23 *approved by the Department of Education.*

24 [§7.1(B) redesignated as §17:8.4]

25 ~~§7.1(C)~~**B.** The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may  
26 adopt such **any** rules as are necessary for the orderly implementation of this Section  
27 and may make further provisions with regard to qualifications and requirements not  
28 inconsistent with this Section.

29 ~~§7(6)(a)(ii)~~**C.** Additionally, whenever there is a qualification or condition

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

19 §7.1(D) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.6(A)]

20 §7.1(E) [Redesignated as R.S. 17:8.6(B)]

21 ~~§7.1(F)~~ **D.** In carrying out its responsibility to prescribe the qualifications and  
 22 provide for the certification of teachers under authority of R.S. 17:7(6), if the State  
 23 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education enters into any agreement for the  
 24 certification to teach in Louisiana of teachers certified to teach in another state, ~~such~~  
 25 **the** agreement shall:

26 (1) Be reciprocal, making applicable to any other state which is a party to  
 27 ~~such~~ **the** agreement and teachers certified to teach in ~~such~~ **the** other state who seek  
 28 certification in Louisiana equivalent to requirements as determined by the Louisiana  
 29 state Department of Education to those the agreement places on Louisiana and

1 teachers certified to teach in Louisiana who apply for certification in ~~another~~ **the**  
2 **other** state.

3 (2) Provide for the certification in Louisiana of a teacher certified to teach in  
4 another state only if ~~such~~ **the** teacher has been employed in a professional  
5 educational capacity requiring certification as a teacher for ~~the~~ three years  
6 ~~immediately~~ preceding application for Louisiana teacher certification unless the  
7 teacher completes ~~such~~ **the** additional educational requirements as shall be approved  
8 by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The provisions of this  
9 Paragraph shall not apply to a teacher who has been certified to teach in another state  
10 for less than three years and has been employed in a professional educational  
11 capacity requiring certification as a teacher for the entire period of certification.

12 **§8.2. Teacher certification examinations**

13 §7(6)(b) **A.** A person applying for initial certification as a teacher in a public  
14 school shall have passed satisfactorily an examination, which shall include  
15 pedagogical knowledge, and knowledge in ~~his~~ **the applicant's** area of specialization,  
16 as a prerequisite to the granting of ~~such~~ **the** certificate **by the State Board of**  
17 **Elementary and Secondary Education.**

18 **B.** However, ~~a person~~ **the following persons may be issued a provisional**  
19 **teaching permit or an authorization to teach without meeting the requirement**  
20 **of Subsection A of this Section:**

21 **(1) Any person** who is employed as a foreign language teacher in a Certified  
22 Foreign Language Immersion Program pursuant to R.S. 17:273.2, ~~and~~ who is not  
23 otherwise eligible to receive state authorization to teach through participation in the  
24 Foreign Associate Teacher Program, ~~shall not be required to pass the examination~~  
25 ~~required by this Subparagraph, but shall~~ **who has** at least ~~have~~ a baccalaureate  
26 degree, and ~~shall be subject to~~ **has satisfied** all provisions of state law relative to  
27 background checks and criminal history review applicable to the employment of  
28 public school personnel.

29 ~~(i) Any person certified to teach in another state who applies for certification~~

1 to teach in the public schools of Louisiana shall be required to pass satisfactorily the  
2 examination which is administered in accordance with the provisions of this  
3 Paragraph as a prerequisite to the granting of such certification. However, a

4 (2) Any teacher certified in another state who meets all other requirements  
5 for a Louisiana standard professional level teacher certificate granted to out-  
6 of-state graduates except for the satisfactory passage of the examination ~~shall be~~  
7 ~~granted a three-year provisional certificate~~ and who does not meet the  
8 requirements of Subsection C of this Section.

9 (3) Any person who meets all other certification requirements except  
10 failure to successfully pass the original examination but who scored within ten  
11 percent of the score required for passage.

12 (ii) ~~Any~~ C. In addition, any teacher who holds a valid out-of-state teaching  
13 certificate and has at least three years of successful teaching experience in another  
14 state as determined by the board shall not be required to take the examination or to  
15 submit any examination scores from any examination previously taken in another  
16 state as a prerequisite to the granting of certification in Louisiana. Upon application  
17 and verification of successful teaching experience in another state by the board, the  
18 teacher shall be granted a valid standard Louisiana professional level teaching  
19 certificate provided the teacher meets all other requirements for background checks  
20 and criminal history reviews as may be required by law and board policy.

21 (iii) ~~D.~~ D. The examination shall be administered to each student in a teacher  
22 education program at a public college or university in Louisiana prior to graduation  
23 and shall be administered to other applicants at any time ~~such~~ the examination is  
24 offered. The board shall prescribe other qualifications and requirements and shall  
25 consider other factors.

26 (iv) ~~E.~~ E. The state superintendent of education shall administer the  
27 ~~aforementioned~~ policy of the board regarding examinations. In administering the  
28 policy, the superintendent shall choose the appropriate testing instrument, shall  
29 conduct all necessary research to validate the applicability of the instrument to



1 teacher education programs within the state of Louisiana, and shall conduct all  
 2 necessary research to determine the level at which the examination is satisfactorily  
 3 completed. During the conduct of the research and in the preparation of the testing  
 4 instrument, the superintendent shall meet with and consider the suggestions of  
 5 individual classroom teachers, representatives of teacher organizations, deans of  
 6 education of the public colleges and universities of the state, and representatives of  
 7 each of the governing boards for higher education.

8 ~~(v)~~**F.** Any applicant seeking certification may apply for and take any required  
 9 test or tests without limitation as to the frequency of applications or testing.

10 ~~(vi)~~**G.** The state superintendent of education shall annually submit a report  
 11 to the ~~House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education~~ **state**  
 12 **board and publish the report on its website** relative to the examination  
 13 administered pursuant to this ~~Paragraph~~ **Section**. ~~Such~~ **The** report shall include but  
 14 not be limited to the following: the number of persons to whom the examination was  
 15 administered, the educational background and teaching experience of ~~such~~ **the**  
 16 persons, the number of persons successfully completing the examination, the  
 17 effectiveness of the examination, and any suggestions for improving the  
 18 examination.

19 ~~§7(6)(d)~~**H.** Any examination selected by the state superintendent of education  
 20 ~~which would supercede the examination~~ **to be** used pursuant to ~~Subparagraph (b) of~~  
 21 ~~this Paragraph~~ **this Section** and any criteria established to determine the level at  
 22 which either the examination used or any examination selected to supercede it is  
 23 satisfactorily completed shall be approved by the State Board of Elementary and  
 24 Secondary Education.

### 25 **§8.3. Provisional Teaching Permit**

26 **A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may issue**  
 27 **a provisional teaching permit to:**

28 **(1) Any person who has not passed the examinations required pursuant**  
 29 **to R.S. 17:8.2 and who satisfies one of the following:**

1           ~~§7(6)(c) Any person who holds~~ **(a) Holds** at least a master's degree in the  
2 subject area in which ~~he~~ **the person** is seeking employment;

3           **(b) Holds a bachelor's degree in the subject area in which the person is**  
4 **seeking employment, provided that the employment will be in a secondary**  
5 **school.**

6           ~~(c) or any person who meets~~ **Meets** all other certification requirements except  
7 ~~he failed~~ **the requirement** to successfully pass the original examination but who  
8 scored within ten percent of the score required for passage;

9           **(2) Any person who has graduated from an approved teacher education**  
10 **program with less than a 2.50 average on a 4.00 scale, but who meets all other**  
11 **certification requirements for a standard professional level teacher certificate.**

12           **B. Any person holding a provisional teaching permit** may be employed as  
13 a teacher for a period not to exceed five years in **if both of** the following **manner are**  
14 **satisfied:**

15           ~~(i)~~**(1)** The state superintendent of education, ~~upon receipt of~~ **receives** a signed  
16 affidavit by the president and superintendent of the school board to which ~~such~~ **the**  
17 person has applied for employment that there is no other applicant available for  
18 employment for a specific teaching position who has ~~met the requirements of this~~  
19 **Section a valid standard professional level teacher certificate** and ~~who~~ **stating**  
20 **that the person** has agreed to participate in a mentorship program offered by the  
21 school board, ~~may issue an emergency teaching permit to such person. Such permit~~  
22 ~~shall be in effect for not more than five years.~~

23           **(2) Each academic year, the person receives a successful teaching**  
24 **evaluation pursuant to R.S. 17:3902.**

25           **C. Each teacher Any person** issued an emergency **a provisional** teaching  
26 permit who has not completed an approved teacher education program shall be  
27 required to complete a preservice training session offered by the school board prior  
28 to the ~~teacher's~~ first day of teaching students.

29           ~~(ii)~~**D.** At any time ~~the~~ **a** person who ~~failed to pass the examination~~ **meets the**

1 **requirements of Subparagraph (A)(1)(c) of this Section** successfully passes the  
 2 examination, ~~he~~ **the person** shall be certified and may be employed on a permanent  
 3 **basis issued a standard professional level teacher certificate provided the person**  
 4 **meets all other requirements for background checks and criminal history**  
 5 **reviews as required by law and board policy.**

6 (iii)**E.** After five years of effective teaching evaluations pursuant to R.S.  
 7 17:3902 and upon a signed affidavit of a superintendent of a school system  
 8 recommending to employ the person for ~~the following school year~~ subject to the  
 9 receipt of a valid Louisiana teaching certificate, the person shall be granted a valid  
 10 standard professional level ~~teaching~~ **teacher** certificate by the state superintendent  
 11 of education, subject only to ~~passing~~ **complying with** all provisions of law **or board**  
 12 **policy** relative to background checks and criminal history review.

13 (iv)**F.** The period during which a teacher is working with ~~an emergency a~~  
 14 **provisional** teaching permit granted under the provisions of this ~~Paragraph~~ **Section**  
 15 shall not count toward tenure.

#### 16 **§8.4. Certification of principals and superintendents**

17 ~~§7.1(B)~~**A.**(1) Any ~~persons~~ **person** applying for initial certification as a  
 18 principal or vice, assistant, or deputy principal, ~~hereafter~~ referred to **in this Section**  
 19 as a principal, in addition to any other requirements of the State Board of Elementary  
 20 and Secondary Education, shall have passed the administrative portion of the  
 21 educational leadership exam adopted by and at a level determined by the State Board  
 22 of Elementary and Secondary Education.

23 (2) ~~Beginning August 15, 2003, and thereafter, any~~ **Any** person applying for  
 24 initial certification as a principal or superintendent, in addition to any other  
 25 requirements of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall have  
 26 satisfactorily passed the appropriate assessment instrument selected by the board at  
 27 a level determined by the board.

28 (3) Any principal who holds valid out-of-state certification as a principal; **and**  
 29 has at least four years of successful experience as a principal in another state as

1 determined by the board, ~~and has completed one year of successful employment as~~  
 2 ~~an assistant principal or a principal in a Louisiana public school system~~ shall not be  
 3 required to take the examination administered in accordance with the provisions of  
 4 this ~~Subsection~~ **Section** or to submit any examination scores from any examination  
 5 previously taken in another state as a prerequisite to the granting of certification in  
 6 Louisiana provided that all of the following conditions are met:

7 (a) ~~The principal meets all other requirements for a Louisiana certificate as~~  
 8 ~~may be required by law or board policy.~~

9 (b) ~~The local superintendent or his designee of the public school system~~  
 10 ~~employing the principal has recommended the principal for employment for the~~  
 11 ~~following school year subject to the receipt of a valid Louisiana certificate as a~~  
 12 ~~principal.~~

13 (c) ~~The local superintendent or his designee has requested, on behalf of the~~  
 14 ~~principal, that the principal be granted a valid Louisiana certificate as a principal~~ **the**  
 15 **principal meets all other requirements for a Louisiana certificate, including**  
 16 **background checks and criminal history reviews, as may be required by law**  
 17 **and board policy.**

18 (4) A principal who holds valid out-of-state certification as a principal, and  
 19 who applies to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for  
 20 certification as a principal, shall be granted a ~~three-year~~ **five-year** nonrenewable  
 21 provisional certificate to be used while ~~such~~ **the** principal completes the  
 22 requirements set forth in this ~~Subsection~~ **Section**.

23 **B. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may adopt**  
 24 **rules as are necessary for the orderly implementation of this Section and may**  
 25 **make further provisions with regard to qualifications and requirements not**  
 26 **inconsistent with this Section.**

27 **§8.5. Certification of foreign associate teachers**

28 §7(6)(g) The board shall develop and implement policies relative to the  
 29 certification of foreign associate teachers that include ~~but shall not be limited to~~ the

1 following components:

2 (i)(1) The designation by the board of the appropriate foreign language  
3 associate teaching certificate to be granted to teachers who meet the certification  
4 requirements of the Foreign Associate Teacher Program.

5 (ii)(2) Procedures for foreign language associate teaching certificate renewal  
6 upon the teacher's completion of a required number of continuing learning units as  
7 determined by the board.

8 (iii)(3) Testing requirements for teachers holding certain foreign language  
9 associate teaching certificates who are pursuing a regular teaching certificate.

10 (iv)(4) The expansion of languages covered under the foreign language  
11 associate teaching certificate that will allow for growth of the Foreign Associate  
12 Teacher Program.

13 (v)(5) Support for the addition of a foreign language indicator to the list of  
14 critical certification shortage areas in the revised Teacher Preparation Accountability  
15 System to encourage universities to increase the number of foreign language teachers  
16 who complete teacher preparation programs.

17 **§8.6. Qualifications of school psychologists**

18 ~~§7.1(D)~~**A.** The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall, by  
19 regulation, prescribe the qualifications, ~~provide for the certification,~~ and provide for  
20 the supervision of school psychologists in the employ of any public agency regulated  
21 by the board, notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 37:2363 or any other ~~provisions~~  
22 **provision** of law to the contrary. The ~~certification requirements~~ **qualifications** shall  
23 not be less than those requirements established by the National Association of School  
24 Psychology **Psychologists. The board may deem a psychologist who meets the**  
25 **qualifications as certified.** Nothing herein **in this Section** shall be construed as  
26 permitting a person ~~certified~~ **qualified** under the provisions of this Subsection to  
27 offer to render, or to render his services as a psychologist in any setting other than  
28 his **the** institutional employment unless ~~he~~ **the person** has been licensed under the  
29 provisions of R.S. 37:2356 or licensed as a medical psychologist under the

1 provisions of R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq.

2 ~~§7.1(E)~~**B.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person  
3 certified as a Level A school psychologist prior to September 1, 1986, shall be  
4 allowed to continue in the employment in which he was engaged and which was not  
5 specifically prohibited at the time of receiving ~~such~~ **the** certificate and may use the  
6 title "certified school psychologist" in the context of that employment.

7 **C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may adopt**  
8 **any rules necessary for the orderly implementation of this Section and may**  
9 **make further provisions with regard to qualifications and requirements not**  
10 **inconsistent with this Section.**

11 **§8.7. Prohibition against granting an educator credential or teaching**  
12 **authorization to certain persons; appeals**

13 **A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not**  
14 **grant an educator credential, a teaching authorization, or a certification of any**  
15 **type to a person who has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to any crime**  
16 **listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C).**

17 ~~§7(6)(h)~~**B.** The board may, **after a successful appeal**, issue ~~a teaching~~  
18 ~~certificate~~ **an educator credential** or other teaching authorization to a person who  
19 has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to ~~an~~ **a felony** offense ~~listed, or~~  
20 **an offense listed** in R.S. 15:587.1(C), who has been found to have submitted  
21 fraudulent documentation to the board or the state Department of Education as part  
22 of an application for a teaching certificate or other teaching authorization, or who has  
23 been found to have facilitated cheating on any state assessment as determined by the  
24 board if all of the following conditions apply:

25 ~~(i)~~**(1)** Five years have passed from the date of entry of the person's final  
26 conviction, the date of entry of ~~his~~ **a** plea of nolo contendere, or the date of receipt  
27 of notification from the board of its determination that ~~he~~ **the person** submitted  
28 fraudulent documentation or facilitated cheating on a state assessment.

29 ~~(ii)~~**(2)** The board has received a request from the person for a formal appeal

1 and has conducted a review of the person's background and the person has provided  
2 letters of recommendation to the board, all in accordance with board policies.

3 ~~(iii)~~ **(3) The provisions of Subsection A of this Section shall not apply**  
4 **to any educator with an** offense is provided for in R.S. 40:966(A), 967(A), 968(A),  
5 969(A), or 970(A) **who has already been issued certification after an appeal to**  
6 **the board related to those specific offenses before July 1, 2023, or who has an**  
7 **appeal pending on June 30, 2023.** ~~The board shall not grant a person who has been~~  
8 ~~convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to any other offense listed in R.S.~~  
9 ~~15:587.1(C) a teaching certificate, a teaching authorization, or an appeal.~~

10 ~~§7(6)(i)~~ **C.** Not later than December thirty-first of each year, the board shall  
11 ~~submit a written report to the Senate Committee on Education and the House~~  
12 ~~Committee on Education~~ **post on its website a report** detailing the number of  
13 appeals filed with the board for the calendar year, the offense upon which the appeal  
14 is based, the disposition of each appeal, and the number of teacher certifications or  
15 other authorization to teach issued as the result of all successful appeals. The  
16 information in the report shall be reported in aggregate and by individual school and  
17 school system.

18 **D. In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the board may**  
19 **adopt any rules necessary for the orderly implementation of this Section and**  
20 **may make further provisions not inconsistent with this Section.**

21 **§8.8. Certification appeals; appeals council; membership; duties; reporting**

22 ~~§7(6)(f)(i)~~ **A.** The board **State Board of Elementary and Secondary**  
23 **Education** shall establish an appeals process which provides for the circumstances  
24 under which an applicant who has been denied certification may appeal ~~such~~ **the**  
25 denial to the Teacher Certification Appeals Council, referred to in this ~~Subparagraph~~  
26 **Section** as the "council".

27 ~~(ii)~~ **B.** The council shall consist of nine members recommended by the state  
28 superintendent of education and approved by the board as follows:

29 ~~(aa)~~ **(1)** Three council members shall be college of education faculty

1 members, each of whom shall represent a postsecondary education institution  
 2 participating in both traditional and alternative certification programs. The Louisiana  
 3 Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the Louisiana Association of  
 4 Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Louisiana Association of Teacher  
 5 Educators shall each submit a list of three nominees. The superintendent shall  
 6 recommend one college of education faculty member from each ~~such~~ list.

7 ~~(bb)~~**(2)** Three council members shall be classroom teachers. The Associated  
 8 Professional Educators of Louisiana, the Louisiana Association of Educators, and the  
 9 Louisiana Federation of Teachers shall each submit a list of three nominees. The  
 10 superintendent shall recommend one classroom teacher from each ~~such~~ list.

11 ~~(ee)~~**(3)** Three council members shall be certified school or system  
 12 administrators. The Louisiana Association of School Executives, the Louisiana State  
 13 Association of School Personnel Administrators, and the Louisiana Association of  
 14 School Superintendents shall each submit a list of three nominees. The  
 15 superintendent shall recommend one administrator from each ~~such~~ list.

16 ~~(iii)~~**C.** Council members shall serve four-year terms, ~~after initial terms as~~  
 17 ~~provided in this Item. As determined by lot at the first meeting of the council, initial~~  
 18 ~~terms shall be as follows:~~

19 ~~(aa) One college of education faculty member, one classroom teacher, and~~  
 20 ~~one certified school or system administrator shall serve an initial term of two years.~~

21 ~~(bb) One college of education faculty member, one classroom teacher, and~~  
 22 ~~one certified school or system administrator shall serve an initial term of three years.~~

23 ~~(cc) One college of education faculty member, one classroom teacher, and~~  
 24 ~~one certified school or system administrator shall serve an initial term of four years.~~

25 ~~(iv)~~**D.** A majority of council members, not including vacancies, shall  
 26 constitute a quorum. All actions of the council shall be approved by the affirmative  
 27 vote of a majority of the members present and voting.

28 ~~(v)~~**E.** The council shall evaluate the appeals of persons seeking Louisiana  
 29 certification, including a review of the documents and transcripts of appellants, and



1 shall submit a written report of its findings to the board. A decision of the council  
2 shall be a final decision.

3 ~~(vi)~~**F.** The council shall not consider appeals of persons who are nondegreed,  
4 lack any examination scores required by the board for initial certification or  
5 administrative certification, or lack fifty percent or more of required course work.  
6 The council shall not consider requests to waive state or federal statutes pertaining  
7 to teacher certification.

8 ~~(vii)~~**G.** The board shall establish by rules and regulations, in accordance with  
9 the Administrative Procedure Act, all guidelines and procedures for carrying out the  
10 provisions of this ~~Subparagraph~~ **Section**.

11 **H. Upon the notification of the dissolution of any association with**  
12 **nominating authority under this Section, the board shall name a similar**  
13 **association to act as a nominating authority. The association shall submit a list**  
14 **of three nominees to the superintendent. The superintendent shall recommend**  
15 **one person from the list for approval by the board.**

16 **§8.9. Criminal history reviews for certification, teaching permits, or teacher**  
17 **authorizations; state repository**

18 ~~§15(C)~~**A.**(1) Any **Beginning January 1, 2025, any** applicant for an **initial**  
19 educator credential or teaching authorization issued by the State Board of  
20 Elementary and Secondary Education ~~or~~ **through** the state Department of Education  
21 shall undergo a criminal history record check as provided in this ~~Subsection~~ **Section**.

22 (2) The **Except as provided in R.S. 17:8.7(B), the** State Board of  
23 Elementary and Secondary Education by rule adopted in accordance with the  
24 Administrative Procedure Act shall establish requirements and procedures consistent  
25 with the provisions of R.S. 15:587.1 under which the state Department of Education  
26 shall, for any applicant for or recipient of an educator credential or teaching  
27 authorization issued in accordance with state law or board policy, do the following:

28 (a) Request information from the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification  
29 and Information, referred to in this ~~Subsection~~ **Section** as the "state bureau", and the

1 Federal Bureau of Investigation, referred to in this ~~Subsection~~ **Section** as the "federal  
2 bureau", concerning whether the person has been arrested for, convicted of, or pled  
3 nolo contendere to any criminal offense.

4 (b) Require and provide the procedure for the submission of a person's  
5 fingerprints to the state bureau, and from the state bureau to the federal bureau, in a  
6 form acceptable to the state bureau.

7 (3) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by rule adopted  
8 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act shall establish requirements  
9 and procedures consistent with the provisions of R.S. 15:587.1 under which the  
10 board may, for any applicant for or recipient of an educator credential or teaching  
11 authorization issued in accordance with state law or board policy, do the following:

12 (a) Request information from the state bureau and the federal bureau  
13 concerning whether the person has been arrested for, convicted of, or pled nolo  
14 contendere to any criminal offense.

15 (b) Require and provide the procedure for the submission of a person's  
16 fingerprints to the state bureau, and from the state bureau to the federal bureau, in a  
17 form acceptable to the state bureau.

18 (4) The state Department of Education may charge a criminal history record  
19 check processing fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars, which may be increased by  
20 up to five percent annually; may collect the processing fees charged by the state  
21 bureau for a state criminal history record check and the federal bureau for a federal  
22 criminal history record check; and may collect the fees charged by sheriffs and third-  
23 party vendors for fingerprinting. The department shall timely submit the appropriate  
24 fees to the appropriate entities.

25 (5) ~~Except as provided in R.S. 17:7(6)(h), neither~~ **Neither** the board nor the  
26 department shall issue an educator credential or teaching authorization to a person  
27 who has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a crime listed in R.S.  
28 15:587.1(C) **or any felony**.

29 ~~(6) Any~~ **B. The department shall check the rap backs provided for in R.S.**

1 15:587.1 for any person with an educator credential or teaching authorization issued  
2 ~~prior to June 1, 2023, shall obtain a state and federal criminal history check, through~~  
3 ~~the procedures provided for in this Subsection for new applicants~~ who has not  
4 previously obtained a state and federal criminal history check by the  
5 department, when an educator is seeking to have such educator a credential or  
6 teaching authorization renewed, advanced, or otherwise modified ~~or by June 1, 2028,~~  
7 ~~whichever occurs sooner.~~ The department may obtain a state and federal  
8 criminal history check in accordance with this Section.

9 C. Except as provided in R.S. 17:7(6)(h) R.S. 17:8.7(B), neither the board  
10 nor the department shall issue, renew, advance, or otherwise modify an educator  
11 credential or teaching authorization for a person who has been convicted of or has  
12 pled nolo contendere to a crime listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C).

13 D.(1) Upon final conviction of or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any  
14 felony offense or any offense listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C), an administrator,  
15 teacher, or other school employee who has an educator credential or teaching  
16 authorization issued by the board or the department shall report the fact of the  
17 conviction or plea to the department within two business days, exclusive of  
18 weekends and holidays, of the conviction or plea.

19 (2) An administrator, teacher, or school employee who fails to report to  
20 the department the conviction or plea shall be fined not more than one thousand  
21 dollars or imprisoned for not more than one year, with or without hard labor,  
22 or both.

23 (3) The board shall revoke the educator credential or teaching  
24 authorization of any person whose criminal history check reveals a conviction  
25 of or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any offense listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C)  
26 or any felony offense.

27 (4) The department shall notify the last known school that employed the  
28 person of the revocation of the educator credential or teaching authorization.

29 E. The department shall maintain and make available on its website the

1 identity of any person whose teaching certification or teaching authorization has  
2 been denied, suspended, or revoked for any of the following reasons:

3 (1) The person has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a  
4 crime listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C), or any felony, even if adjudication was withheld  
5 or a pardon or expungement was granted.

6 (2) The person has been found to have submitted fraudulent  
7 documentation to the board or the department as part of an application for a  
8 Louisiana teaching certificate or other teaching authorization.

9 (3) The person has been found to have facilitated cheating on any state  
10 assessment as determined by the board.

11 F. A public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school system in  
12 Louisiana may choose not to hire a person whose certification or teaching  
13 authorization has been denied, suspended, or revoked.

14 G. The board may adopt any rules necessary for the orderly  
15 implementation of this Section and may make further provisions not  
16 inconsistent with this Section.

17 \* \* \*

18 §15. Criminal history review

19 \* \* \*

20 B. Each city, parish, and other local public school board shall establish, by  
21 regulation, requirements, and procedures consistent with the provisions of R.S.  
22 15:587.1 under which the school systems ~~shall~~ may determine whether an applicant  
23 with a teaching credential or authorization issued by the state board or the state  
24 department, or ~~and shall determine whether an~~ employee, including any person  
25 employed as provided in Subparagraph (A)(1)(c) of this Section, has been arrested  
26 for or convicted of or pled nolo contendere to any criminal offense. A criminal  
27 background check is not required for an applicant with a teaching credential  
28 or authorization issued by the board or the department unless the applicant's  
29 teaching certification or teaching authorization has been denied, suspended, or

1 **revoked by the board or the department.** Included in this regulation shall be the  
 2 requirement and the procedure for the submission of a person's fingerprints in a form  
 3 acceptable to the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information prior  
 4 to employment of such person.

\* \* \*

C. [Redesignated as R.S 17:8.9]

\* \* \*

8 E.(1) An administrator, teacher, or other school employee upon his final  
 9 conviction **of** or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal offense, excluding  
 10 traffic offenses, shall report the fact of his conviction or plea to his employer **and to**  
 11 **the department** within ~~forty-eight hours~~ **two business days, exclusive of weekends**  
 12 **and holidays,** of the conviction or plea of guilty or nolo contendere. **Upon receiving**  
 13 **a report of a final conviction of or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any**  
 14 **criminal offense, excluding traffic offenses, by an employee holding a teaching**  
 15 **certificate or teaching authorization issued by the state board, a school or school**  
 16 **system shall report the fact of the conviction or plea to the Louisiana**  
 17 **Department of Education within two business days, exclusive of weekends and**  
 18 **holidays, of receiving the report of the conviction or plea of guilty or nolo**  
 19 **contendere.**

\* \* \*

21 Section 2. R.S. 15:587.1(A), (B)(1)(a), (C)(introductory paragraph), (D)(2), and (E)  
 22 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§587.1. Provision of information to protect children

24 A.(1)(a) As provided in R.S. 15:825.3, R.S. ~~17:15,~~ **17:8.9, 15,** 407.42, and  
 25 407.71, Children's Code Article 424.1, and R.S. 46:51.2, any employer or others  
 26 responsible for the actions of one or more persons who have been given or have  
 27 applied to be considered for a position of supervisory or disciplinary authority over  
 28 children, and as provided in R.S. 46:51.2(A), the Department of Children and Family  
 29 Services as employer of one or more persons who have been given or have applied

1 to be considered for a position whose duties include the investigation of child abuse  
2 or neglect, supervisory or disciplinary authority over children, direct care of a child,  
3 or performance of licensing surveys, and for individuals who are employed by or  
4 contracted staff of a child care institution, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 672, licensed by  
5 the department, shall request in writing that the bureau supply information to  
6 ascertain whether that person or persons have been arrested for or convicted of, or  
7 pled nolo contendere to, any criminal offense. The request must be on a form  
8 prepared by the bureau and signed by a responsible officer or official of the  
9 organization or department making the request. It must include a statement signed  
10 by the person about whom the request is made which gives his permission for such  
11 information to be released.

12 ~~(b)~~**(2)** In responding to a request for information as provided for in  
13 ~~Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph~~ **(1) of this Subsection**, the bureau shall make  
14 available a record of all criminal arrests and convictions prior to the date of request.  
15 Any recipient of such information as provided in this ~~Paragraph~~ **Subsection** shall  
16 maintain the confidentiality of such criminal history information in accordance with  
17 applicable federal or state law.

18 ~~(e)~~**(3)** The bureau, upon receiving a request as provided for in ~~Subparagraph~~  
19 ~~(a) of this Paragraph~~ **(2) of this Subsection**, shall provide a report promptly and in  
20 writing, but provide only such information as is necessary to specify whether or not  
21 that person has been arrested or convicted of or pled nolo contendere to any such  
22 crime or crimes, the crime or crimes of which he has been arrested or convicted or  
23 to which he has pled nolo contendere, and the date or dates on which they occurred.

24 B.(1)(a) Upon receiving a request pursuant to the provisions of R.S. ~~17:15,~~  
25 **17:8.9, 15,** 407.42, and 407.71, and R.S. 46:51.2 when authorized by R.S. 15:587,  
26 that meets the requirements of Subsection A of this Section, the bureau of criminal  
27 identification and information shall survey its criminal history records and  
28 identification files and make a simultaneous request of the Federal Bureau of  
29 Investigation for like information from other jurisdictions. The bureau of criminal

1 identification and information shall provide a report promptly and in writing, but  
 2 provide only such information as is necessary to specify whether or not that person  
 3 has been arrested for or convicted of or pled nolo contendere to any crime or crimes,  
 4 the crime or crimes of which he has been arrested for or convicted or to which he has  
 5 pled nolo contendere, and the date or dates on which they occurred. The report  
 6 provided pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection shall include arrests,  
 7 convictions, or other dispositions, including convictions dismissed pursuant to Code  
 8 of Criminal Procedure Articles 893 and 894.

9 \* \* \*

10 C. The provisions of R.S. 15:825.3, R.S. ~~17:15~~, **17:8.9, 15**, 407.42, and  
 11 407.71, R.S. 46:51.2 and 1441.13, and Children's Code Article 424.1 shall govern  
 12 the employment of persons who have been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo  
 13 contendere to, any of the following crimes:

14 \* \* \*

15 D.

\* \* \*

16 (2) The prohibition in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection against an individual  
 17 applicant bearing any of the costs of providing information shall not apply to  
 18 requests made pursuant to the provisions of R.S. ~~17:15~~, **17:8.9, 15**, 407.42, or 407.71  
 19 or R.S. 46:51.2.

20 E. In addition to any penalties otherwise imposed under the provisions of this  
 21 Chapter, the head of or other responsible person for any public entity who fails to  
 22 comply with the provisions of Subsection A of this Section or who employs any  
 23 person in violation of the provisions of R.S. 15:825.3, R.S. ~~17:15~~, **17:8.9, 15**, or R.S.  
 24 46:51.2(A) or (B), shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

25 \* \* \*

26 Section 3. R.S. 17:7(6)(e) and (10) are hereby repealed.

27 Section 4. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to redesignate the  
 28 current provisions of Title 17 as provided in Section 1 of this Act.

29 Section 5. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized to update any

1 citation references in Louisiana Law to conform with the changes made by this Act.

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

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The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl Serrett. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Michael Bell.

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#### DIGEST

SB 197 Re-Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Peacock

Present law requires the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to provide for the certification of teachers, which includes qualifications and requirements to indicate proficiency of the teacher to educate at the grade level and in the assigned subjects.

Proposed law redesignates various provisions of present law relative to teacher and educator certification and makes technical changes.

Present law requires certified teachers to have completed an approved teacher education program and prescribes the minimum requirements for students entering an approved teacher education program.

Proposed law provides for conditional acceptance of students into approved teacher education programs.

Present law requires an applicant who participated in an undergraduate teacher education program to take coursework in the teaching of reading. Allows any applicant who has participated in any alternate teacher education program the option of either completing the same coursework required of an undergraduate program applicant or possessing the reading and literacy competencies identified in scientifically based reading research at the national level and approved by BESE for the teaching of reading. Prohibits any secondary teacher from using more than three semester hours of teaching of reading for certification purposes.

Proposed law removes the maximum hours allowed to be used for certification purposes. Requires each applicant, regardless of whether the applicant participated in an undergraduate teacher education program, to meet at least one of the following requirements:

- (1) Complete the prescribed coursework.
- (2) Possess the identified reading and literacy competencies.

Proposed law changes the recipient of required reports in present law from the legislature to BESE and requires the posting of the reports on the BESE and state Department of Education (LDOE) website.

Present law allows certain persons who have not completed an approved teacher education program to teach on a provisional certificate in an area with a shortage of certified teachers.

Proposed law provides that a person with a bachelor's degree may teach on a provisional



certificate in a shortage area in a secondary school.

Present law provides for the certification of principals and superintendents. Requires that a principal who is certified from another state and who has four years of successful experience in that state may be certified in Louisiana after one year of successful employment in Louisiana as a principal. Further provides that an out-of-state principal who has not passed the required assessment may be granted a three-year nonrenewable provisional certificate in order to take the exam.

Proposed law removes the requirement that a successful out-of-state principal have one year of successful employment prior to certification in Louisiana. Changes the length of the provisional certificate to five years to match the provisions of teachers.

Present law requires BESE to prescribe the qualification standards for school psychologists, which shall at a minimum be equal to the requirements set by the National Association of School Psychologists. Further provides for the certification of persons who meet those qualifications.

Proposed law allows BESE to deem certified a person who meets the qualifications.

Present law allows for certain individuals to appeal a denial of a certification. Further prohibits appeals from persons who have been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to certain crimes listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C). However, present law provides exceptions and allows appeals from individuals convicted of or who have pled guilty to certain crimes relative to the manufacture and distribution of drugs.

Proposed law removes the ability for any person who has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to the manufacture and distribution of drugs to appeal the denial of a teaching certification.

Present law requires any person who has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to a felony offense to report the conviction or plea to the employing school district.

Proposed law requires the person to also report the conviction or plea to the LDOE. Requires LDOE to revoke the certification of any person who has been convicted of or who has entered a plea for a crime listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C).

Present law requires criminal history checks for both employment and certification purposes. Requires the employer to run a check for employment purposes and LDOE to run a check for credentialing purposes.

Proposed law requires LDOE to maintain and make available on its website the identity of any person whose teaching certification or teaching authorization has been denied, suspended, or revoked for any one of these reasons:

- (1) The person has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a crime listed in present law (R.S. 15:587.1(C)) for protection of children, or any felony, even if adjudication was withheld or a pardon or expungement was granted.
- (2) The person has been found to have submitted fraudulent documentation to BESE or LDOE as part of an application for a teaching certificate or other teaching authorization.
- (3) The person has been found to have facilitated cheating on any state assessment as determined by BESE.

Proposed law repeals present law provisions that prohibit BESE from limiting the number of times a temporary teaching permit may be issued.

Proposed law repeals present law requiring BESE to issue teacher authorizations for persons not required to be certified for the limited purposes of ascertaining whether the person had submitted fraudulent documents or if proper background checks had been done by the employing school.

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

(Amends R.S. 15:571.1(A), (B)(1)(a), (C)(intro para), (D)(2), and (E) and R.S. 17:7(6), 7.1, and 15(B) and (C); adds R.S. 17:8.1-8.9; repeals R.S. 17:7(6)(e) and (10))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Allow BESE, upon receiving notification that an association with nominating authority relative to the teacher certification appeals council, to name a similar association to act as a nominating authority.
2. Retain present law provisions allowing any person who has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to the manufacturing and/or distribution of drugs to appeal the denial of a teaching certification.
3. Require each applicant, regardless of whether the applicant participated in an undergraduate teacher education program to meet at least one of the following requirements:
  - (a) Complete the prescribed coursework.
  - (b) Possess the identified reading and literacy competencies.
4. Change from 48 hours to two business days exclusive of weekends and holidays the timeframe for an administrator, teacher, or other school employee who has an educator credential or teaching authorization issued by BESE or LDOE to report to LDOE a final conviction or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any felony offense.
5. Remove requirement that LDOE request a new criminal background check upon receiving the notification of a final conviction or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any felony offense.

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to the engrossed bill

1. Add new statutory designation to the list of statutes under which the La. Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information provides certain information on whether a person has been arrested for or convicted of, or pled nolo contendere to, any criminal offense for the purpose of protecting children.
2. Remove requirement for LDOE to be the central fingerprint repository for persons with educator credentials or teaching authorizations.
3. Require LDOE to maintain and make available on its website the identity of any person whose teaching certification or teaching authorization has been denied, suspended, or revoked for any one of three specific reasons.

Senate Floor Amendments to reengrossed bill

1. Technical amendment.
2. Clarify that a student granted conditional acceptance must achieve a 3.00 average on the first 12 credit hours of the program.