

1 HB307  
2 217195-5  
3 By Representatives Baker, Scott, Collins and Ledbetter  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 08-FEB-22

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

ENROLLED, An Act,

To amend Section 16-23-3, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended by Act 2021-111, 2021 Regular Session, and to add Section 16-23-3.01 to the Code of Alabama 1975, relating to provisional teaching certificates; to authorize the issuance of a professional educator certificate to qualified individuals who have held an alternative certificate for one year, instead of three years; and to authorize the issuance of a professional educator certificate to a qualified individual who completes an alternative teacher preparation program offered by an approved alternative teacher education preparation organization.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 16-23-3, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended by Act 2021-111, 2021 Regular Session, is amended to read as follows:

"§16-23-3.

"(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the State of Alabama shall modify its policies relative to the certification of teachers to permit an expanded alternative certification program for prospective teachers ~~for grades six through 12~~. Further, it is the intent of the Legislature that policies, rules, and regulations impacting alternative teaching certificate and teacher preparation programs shall

1 create an equal opportunity for design, approval, delivery,  
2 implementation, and continued review for accredited teacher  
3 education programs at a traditional institution of higher  
4 education as are created for alternative teacher preparation  
5 programs offered by approved alternative teacher education  
6 preparation organizations. In addition to certificates issued  
7 pursuant to this chapter to individuals graduating from  
8 approved teacher education programs, the State Board of  
9 Education shall adopt policies, procedures, rules,  
10 regulations, or standards authorizing an alternative  
11 certificate to be issued by the State Superintendent of  
12 Education to an individual, regardless of whether the  
13 individual is a graduate of an approved teacher education  
14 program, where the applicant shall:

15           "(1) Hold an earned bachelor's or higher degree from  
16 a regionally accredited institution of higher education which  
17 offers, at a minimum, junior and senior level courses of  
18 instruction.

19           "(2) Submit the required application forms and fees  
20 and, when required, a separate fingerprint fee, along with  
21 fingerprints and release forms.

22           "(3) Be recommended for certification by the  
23 employing Alabama local school superintendent or private  
24 school administrator.

1           "(4) Be assigned a mentor by the employing  
2 superintendent or private school administrator.

3           "(5) Meet the requirements of the Alabama  
4 ~~Prospective Teacher Testing~~ Educator Certification Assessment  
5 Program as set forth by the State Board of Education.

6           "(6) Verify compliance with one of the following  
7 admission criteria:

8           "a. That at least 30 semester hours credit, 18 of  
9 which shall be upper division level, have been earned in the  
10 field for which certification is sought.

11           "b. An earned bachelor's or higher degree from a  
12 regionally accredited institution of higher education with a  
13 non-education major in the academic area for which  
14 certification is sought.

15           "c. A passing score on the appropriate Praxis  
16 content test of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing  
17 Program.

18           ~~"(7) Request that an official transcript be sent  
19 directly to the employing superintendent or private school  
20 administrator.~~

21           "d. Any other admission criteria established by the  
22 State Board of Education.

23           "(b) The State Board of Education shall further  
24 adopt policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or standards  
25 authorizing an alternative certificate to be issued by the

1 State Superintendent of Education to an individual, regardless  
2 of whether the individual is a graduate of an approved teacher  
3 education program, where the applicant shall:

4 "(1) Hold a master's or higher degree from a  
5 regionally accredited institution of higher education.

6 "(2) Be a retiree in good standing, or honorably  
7 discharged former member of the Armed Forces of the United  
8 States, with at least 10 years of service.

9 "(3) Otherwise satisfy all other requirements of  
10 subsection (a), as they relate to a master's or higher degree,  
11 except for the requirement that he or she verify a passing  
12 score on the appropriate Praxis content test of the Alabama  
13 Prospective Teacher Testing Program as provided in paragraph  
14 c. of subdivision (6) of subsection (a).

15 "(c) Any alternative certificate shall be valid for  
16 the period of time as shall be set by policies, procedures,  
17 rules, regulations, or standards which shall be adopted by the  
18 State Board of Education but in no event shall the period  
19 extend beyond four years from the July 1 beginning date of the  
20 initial alternative certificate.

21 "(d) Where an individual has received an alternative  
22 certificate or certificates and has been employed for ~~three~~  
23 ~~full years by no more than two county or city school boards or~~  
24 ~~private schools~~ one full year as an educator while holding one  
25 or more alternative certificates, the individual may be

1 granted a teaching certificate issued by the State  
2 Superintendent of Education pursuant to Section 16-23-1, when:

3 "(1) Approved by the State Superintendent of  
4 Education.

5 "(2) Approved according to policies, procedures,  
6 rules, regulations, or standards which shall be adopted by the  
7 State Board of Education. The policies, procedures, rules,  
8 regulations, or standards shall require that the recipient of  
9 an alternative certificate successfully complete no more than  
10 the equivalent of 12 semester hours of college course work in  
11 education related courses, as may be determined by the State  
12 Board of Education based upon factors such as the recipient's  
13 individual educational background, prior to the issuance of a  
14 teaching certificate pursuant to Section 16-23-1.

15 "(e) Any individual granted a teaching certificate  
16 issued by the State Superintendent of Education pursuant to  
17 Section 16-23-1, following the receipt of an alternative  
18 certificate, as herein provided, may be eligible to attain  
19 continuing service status pursuant to Chapter 24C, the  
20 Students First Act of 2011. Time served as a teacher pursuant  
21 to an alternative certificate shall be counted in determining  
22 continuing service status pursuant to Section 16-24C-4.

23 "(f) The State Superintendent of Education, in cases  
24 of emergency when certified teachers, including teachers who  
25 may have received alternative certificates pursuant to this

1 section, are not available, may grant emergency certificates  
2 of the different kinds and grades, but any such emergency  
3 certificate shall not be valid for a period to exceed two  
4 years but shall expire at the end of the scholastic year for  
5 which it is issued. An emergency certificate may be extended  
6 or renewed one time as provided by policies, procedures,  
7 rules, regulations, or standards adopted by the State Board of  
8 Education, for a maximum validity of four years. Time served  
9 as a teacher pursuant to an emergency certificate shall not be  
10 counted in determining continuing service status pursuant to  
11 Section 16-24C-4.

12 ~~"(g) Any alternative certificate issued pursuant to~~  
13 ~~this section shall be limited to individuals teaching grades~~  
14 ~~six through 12; provided, however, that an alternative~~  
15 ~~certificate may be issued for individuals teaching grades~~  
16 ~~kindergarten through eight if limited to the subject areas of~~  
17 ~~the fine arts or foreign languages, or both."~~

18 Section 2. Section 16-23-3.01 is added to the Code  
19 of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

20 §16-23-3.01.

21 (a) The State of Alabama shall modify its policies  
22 relative to the certification of teachers to permit the  
23 issuance of a professional educator certificate to those  
24 qualified individuals who successfully complete an approved  
25 alternative teacher education preparation organization. In

1 addition to any provisional certificates and professional  
2 certificates issued pursuant to this chapter to individuals  
3 graduating from approved teacher education programs, the State  
4 Board of Education shall authorize the issuance of a  
5 professional educator certificate by the State Superintendent  
6 of Education to a qualified individual who completes an  
7 approved alternative teacher education preparation  
8 organization.

9 (b) The State Superintendent of Education shall  
10 maintain a database of alternative teacher education  
11 preparation organizations, approved by the State Board of  
12 Education, as a means for screening, recruiting, and  
13 recommending for certification qualified individuals to teach  
14 in the public K-12 schools. An approved alternative teacher  
15 education preparation organization, at a minimum, shall  
16 require each applicant whom the approved organization  
17 recommends for initial licensure to satisfy all of the  
18 following:

19 (1) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited  
20 institution of higher education which offers, at a minimum,  
21 junior and senior level courses of instruction.

22 (2) Successfully pass a criminal history background  
23 information check.

24 (3) Successfully complete an alternative teacher  
25 preparation program offered by the approved organization.



1           (c) In determining which alternative teacher  
2 education preparation organizations to approve, the State  
3 Board of Education, may consider prerequisites including, but  
4 not limited to, the following:

5           (1) Successful operation in at least five states.

6           (2) Successful operation of an alternative teacher  
7 preparation program for at least 10 years.

8           (3) Requirement that an applicant pass a subject  
9 area examination or professional teaching examination, or  
10 both.

11           (d) An individual who is granted a professional  
12 educator certificate pursuant to this section may teach in the  
13 subject areas and at the educational levels he or she has  
14 successfully completed through the alternative teacher  
15 preparation program offered by the approved alternative  
16 teacher education preparation organization.

17           (e) An individual who holds a professional educator  
18 certificate pursuant to this section may apply for a  
19 professional renewal license and shall in all other respects  
20 be treated in the same manner as an individual who holds a  
21 professional educator certificate granted upon successful  
22 completion of traditional, in-state teaching certification  
23 programs.

1                   Section 3. This act shall become effective on the  
2 first day of the third month following its passage and  
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

