
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1874 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY WATRO, MARCELL, GAYDOS, GUENST, BERNSTINE,
RYNCAVAGE, CABELL, TWARDZIK, KAUFER, GLEIM AND JOZWIAK,
DECEMBER 5, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, DECEMBER 5, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in certification of teachers, further
6 providing for certificates qualifying persons to teach and
7 providing for special temporary certificate for veterans.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1201 of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended to read:

13 Section 1201. Certificates Qualifying Persons to Teach.--
14 Only those persons holding one of the following certificates
15 shall be qualified to teach in the public schools of this
16 Commonwealth--(1) Permanent college certificate, (2) provisional
17 college certificate, (3) normal school diploma, (4) normal
18 school certificate, (5) special permanent certificate, (6)
19 special temporary certificate, (7) permanent State certificate,
20 (8) residency certificate, (9) intern certificate, (10)

1 certificates which are permanent licenses to teach by virtue of
2 the provisions of section one thousand three hundred eight of
3 the act, approved the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine
4 hundred eleven (Pamphlet Laws 309), as amended, which is
5 repealed hereby, (10.1) special temporary certificate for
6 veterans or (11) such other kinds of certificates as are issued
7 under the standards prescribed by the State Board of Education.
8 The State Board of Education shall also provide for issuance of
9 certificates by district superintendents to meet such
10 emergencies or shortage of teachers as may occur.

11 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

12 Section 1207.5. Special Temporary Certificate for
13 Veterans.--(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to
14 the contrary, the secretary, in conjunction with the State Board
15 of Education, shall develop a special temporary certificate for
16 veterans. The special temporary certificate program shall
17 provide an alternative pathway for an eligible veteran to earn
18 an Instructional I Certificate.

19 (b) The secretary shall:

20 (1) Evaluate and approve qualified providers for a special
21 temporary certificate for veterans.

22 (2) Adopt standards and guidelines as necessary to implement
23 a program for a special temporary certificate for veterans. The
24 program standards and guidelines shall address:

25 (i) Instruction and training in the following:

26 (A) Educational strategies for the designated subject area.

27 (B) Child development specifically related to the level of
28 the certificate sought.

29 (C) Professional ethics and responsibilities.

30 (D) Pennsylvania academic standards.

1 (E) Assessment knowledge and skills.

2 (F) Accommodations and adaptations for students with
3 disabilities in an inclusive setting.

4 (G) Strategies for meeting instructional needs of English
5 language learners.

6 (ii) Requirements for candidate oversight and mentoring that
7 may include field placement, student teaching, classroom
8 observations and ongoing support for novice educators in
9 partnership with school entities during their induction period,
10 including observation, consultation and assessment that includes
11 close supervision by a professional employe.

12 (3) Issue special temporary certificates for veterans in
13 accordance with this section.

14 (c) An individual who applies for a special temporary
15 certificate for veterans shall comply with all of the following:

16 (1) Satisfy the requirements specified under section 1209.

17 (2) Complete at least sixty (60) college credits with a
18 minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 grade scale, as
19 provided by one or more accredited institutions of higher
20 education that the department has identified as having a quality
21 program resulting in a bachelor's degree or higher.

22 (3) Be continuously enrolled in an approved residency
23 program as developed by the department.

24 (4) Present evidence of satisfactory achievement on the
25 appropriate subject area content test.

26 (d) A certification program offered under this section shall
27 consist of flexible and accelerated pedagogical training to
28 candidates who have demonstrated subject matter competency in a
29 subject area related to their certification.

30 (e) The secretary may issue a special temporary certificate

1 for veterans for service in a specific area of instruction to
2 candidates who satisfy the requirements under this section.

3 (f) A special temporary certificate for veterans shall be
4 valid for five (5) years of teaching in the public schools of
5 this Commonwealth in the area for which it applies.

6 (g) While teaching under a special temporary certificate for
7 veterans, the individual must be assigned a cooperating teacher
8 for a minimum of two (2) school years after commencing
9 employment.

10 (h) The program shall provide for the special temporary
11 certificate for veterans to be converted to an Instructional I
12 Certificate upon the completion of all program requirements as
13 developed by the department, in conjunction with the State Board
14 of Education, and the completion of two (2) years of
15 satisfactory teaching in school entities.

16 (i) At least one (1) year before a candidate's certificate
17 is set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the
18 candidate of the date on which the certificate will expire and
19 provide a list of each method by which the qualifications for an
20 Instructional I Certificate can be completed.

21 (j) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to allow
22 the department to extend the validity period of a temporary
23 certificate for an additional two (2) years if the requirements
24 for the Instructional I Certificate cannot be completed due to
25 any of the following:

26 (1) A serious illness or injury of the candidate.

27 (2) Military service requirements of a veteran's spouse
28 serving in the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve
29 component or National Guard.

30 (3) Extraordinary extenuating circumstances. The department

1 shall extend the special temporary certificate for veterans upon
2 approval by the secretary.

3 (k) A candidate shall be issued an Instructional I
4 Certificate upon successful completion of the approved
5 certification program provided that the candidate has satisfied
6 the requirements of section 1209.

7 (l) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
8 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

9 "Candidate." A veteran who holds a special temporary
10 certificate and seeks an Instructional I Certificate.

11 "Cooperating teacher." An individual who satisfies all of
12 the following:

13 (1) Holds a certification under section 1201 in the subject
14 area in which the individual will provide guidance to a student
15 teacher.

16 (2) Has received at least three (3) years of satisfactory
17 ratings as a certified teacher.

18 (3) Has at least one (1) year of certificated teaching
19 experience in the school entity where the student teacher is
20 placed.

21 "Department." The Department of Education of the
22 Commonwealth.

23 "School entity." A public school, including a charter
24 school, cyber charter school or regional charter school, private
25 school, nonpublic school, intermediate unit or area career and
26 technical school operating within this Commonwealth.

27 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

28 "Veteran." An individual who served in the United States
29 Armed Forces, including a reserve component or National Guard,
30 who was discharged or released under conditions other than

1 dishonorable.

2 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.