

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1571

H.P. 1029

House of Representatives, April 10, 2025

An Act to Modify Certification Standards for Full-time Teachers in Public Charter Schools and for Educational Technicians

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CROCKETT of Portland.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §2412, sub-§6, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 414, §5, is amended to read:

B. All full-time teachers in a public charter school must either hold an appropriate teaching certificate or become certified within 3 years of the date they are hired, except for those with an advanced degree, professional certification or unique expertise or experience in the curricular area in which they teach.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13019-H, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 235, §25 and affected by §41, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

3. Certificate term; renewal. An educational technician certificate is issued for a 5-year period and may be renewed in accordance with rules adopted by the state board. Rules adopted by the state board must include, but are not limited to, the following requirements related to renewing an educational technician certificate:

A. To renew a certificate, except as provided in paragraph B, an educational technician, whether employed or unemployed, must complete at least 3 semester hours of professional or academic study or the equivalent or in-service training designed to improve the performance of the educational technician in the field; and

B. If at the time of a person's application for renewal the person's educational technician certificate has expired and it has been more than 2 years since the person was employed as an educational technician, the person is exempt from the requirements of paragraph A.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the provisions governing the qualifications necessary for a full-time teacher to be employed by a public charter school. The bill eliminates alternatives under current law that allow a teacher to be employed without an appropriate teaching certificate if the teacher becomes certified within 3 years from the teacher's date of hire or if the teacher holds an advanced degree, professional certification or unique expertise or experience in the relevant curricular area.

The bill also changes requirements applying to renewing an educational technician certificate to exempt from the professional or academic study and in-service training required for certificate renewal a person whose certificate has expired and who has not been employed as an educational technician in more than 2 years at the time of the person's application for renewal.