

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 749

S. P. 239

In Senate, January 28, 1965

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Mendell of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Provide an Alternative Standard for Teacher Certification.

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

R. S., T. 20, § 1751, amended. Section 1751 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

‘Sec. 1751. Certificate; regulation; revocation

1. Eligibility. Certificates of qualification signed by the commissioner shall be granted to all candidates who pass satisfactory examinations in such branches as are required or permitted by law to be taught in the public schools and who in other respects fulfill the proper requirements. No person shall be eligible for a certificate unless he is at least 17 years of age and has completed not less than an approved secondary school course or unless he shall present satisfactory evidence of such educational attainment otherwise secured as may be adjudged by the commissioner to be the equivalent of said approved secondary course. Such certificate shall be either probationary or permanent, and shall indicate the grade of schools which the person named therein is qualified to teach. No certificate of secondary grade shall be granted to any person who has not completed the equivalent of 2 years of a college course. No certificate shall be granted to any person to teach in the public schools of the State unless he furnishes evidence of good moral character and meets such requirements as to preliminary education and training as may be prescribed by the commissioner; nor shall a certificate be granted to any person to teach in the elementary schools who cannot present satisfactory evidence of such training in physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effects of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics upon the human system. The certificate may be granted without the examination prescribed to graduates of colleges and Maine state normal schools or of other normal

training schools having a 2 years' course for graduates of high schools or academies and to teachers of 2 years' service and satisfactory fitness, on the presentation of such evidence of fitness and under such special conditions as the commissioner may prescribe. Certificates may, under the rules prescribed by the commissioner, be granted to persons holding state certificates granted by authority of other states. Any certificate granted under this or any preceding law may for sufficient cause be revoked and annulled. Nothing in this section relative to revocation of teachers' certificates shall be retroactive. Any teacher whose certificate has been revoked shall be granted a hearing on request before a committee, one member to be selected by the commissioner, the 2nd by the teacher involved and the 3rd by the other 2 members. The hearings before this committee may be public at their discretion and their decision shall be final.

2. **Alternative standards.** The certificate shall be granted without any additional requirements as to preliminary education and training, except for training in physiology and hygiene described in subsection 1, to persons who produce satisfactory evidence as follows:

A. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from approved institutions of higher learning. Approved institutions of higher learning are those which are accredited by the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the Middle Atlantic Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the Northwestern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the Western College Association or their successors; or which in the opinion of the commissioner satisfy the standard in subject matter preparation of its regional accrediting association. The commissioner, however, may revoke the approval of any institution which in his opinion does not in fact meet the subject matter preparation standard of its regional accrediting association.

B. An affidavit signed by a designated official of an approved institution that the candidate is qualified in subject matter preparation to teach in elementary and secondary schools, except that the candidate shall not be eligible to teach kindergarten or subprimary through grade 4 unless the approved institution engages in the preparation of teachers for such grades. The affidavit of qualification to teach in grades 5 through 8 shall state that the subject matter preparation of the candidate was in subjects commonly taught in the public schools for such grades. The affidavit of qualification to teach grades 9 through 12 shall state in which subjects the candidate is so qualified, and the candidate's certificate to teach in grades 9 through 12 shall be specifically limited to those subjects or other subjects of similar content as may be determined by the commissioner. Notwithstanding any such affidavit of qualification, the commissioner, before issuing a certificate to teach, may require the candidate to pass a subject matter examination appropriate for grades in which he seeks certificate to teach.

C. Teaching experience in a completed program of practice teaching under the direction of the approved institution of higher learning, or a completed program of practice teaching approved by the commissioner, or one year of full-time teaching experience in either a public or private school, or one year of

teaching in the public schools as an apprentice to an experienced teacher approved by the commissioner.

Any candidate who has fulfilled all the requirements for certification, except that of teaching experience, shall be deemed eligible to secure practice teaching or apprentice experience in the public schools of this State.'