

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2387

S.P. 937

In Senate, January 12, 2000

An Act to Amend the Qualifying Examination for Initial Teacher Certification.

Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, BRENNAN of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13032**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt.
4 I, §§2 and 3, is amended to read:

6 **§13032. Qualifying examination**

8 The provisional teacher certificate ~~shall~~ may only be issued
10 to those applicants who have taken the teacher qualifying
12 ~~examinations~~ examination. The ~~examinations~~ examination may be
14 administered in separate parts and may be taken by applicants for
16 provisional teacher certificates at any time after completion of
18 the sophomore year of attendance at a post-secondary higher
20 education institution. The examination ~~shall~~ must test the
22 applicant in the following areas area:

24 ~~1.---Communication---skills,---Communication---skills,---which~~
26 ~~include-listening,-reading-and-writing;~~

28 ~~2.---General-knowledge,---General-knowledge,---which---includes~~
30 ~~concepts-from-a-variety-of-disciplines,-including-literature-and~~
32 ~~fine-arts,-mathematics,-science-and-social-studies,-and~~

34 ~~3.---Professional-knowledge,---Professional-knowledge,---which~~
36 ~~focuses-on-the-knowledge-and-cognitive-processes-the-teacher-uses~~
38 ~~in-decision-making,-with-emphasis-on-how-these-processes-will-be~~
40 ~~applied-in-the-classroom.~~

42 **4. Basic skills.** Basic skills, which includes reading,
44 writing and mathematics.

46 The applicant ~~shall--be~~ is responsible for the costs
48 associated with taking the teacher qualifying ~~examinations~~
50 examination.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13035, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt.
I, §§2 and 3, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13035-A is enacted to read:

§13035-A. Qualifying scores

1. Basic skills scores. Beginning September 1, 2000, in
order to be eligible for a provisional teacher certificate, an
applicant must achieve the minimum qualifying scores on the
teacher qualifying ~~examinations~~ examination in basic skills
pursuant to section 13032, subsection 4.

2. Core battery scores. Until September 1, 2004,
notwithstanding subsection 1, an applicant that has taken and

2 achieved minimum qualifying scores under former section 13035 on
3 the communications skills and general knowledge sections of the
4 core battery of a national teachers examination taken on or after
5 November 1, 1982 and before September 1, 2000 is eligible for a
6 provisional teacher certificate.

7 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §§13037 and 13038** are enacted to read:

8 **§13037. One-year, nonrenewable certificate**

9
10 An individual who has failed to achieve the minimum
11 qualifying scores of this State on qualifying examinations taken
12 pursuant to section 13035 on or after July 1, 1988 may be issued
13 on or after September 1, 2000 a one-year, nonrenewable
14 certificate as long as other criteria as required by the State
15 Board of Education have been met.

16
17 **§13038. Rulemaking**

18
19 The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement
20 sections 13031 to 13036. Rules adopted pursuant to these
21 sections are routine technical rules in accordance with Title 5,
22 chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

23 **Sec. 5. Determination of minimum qualifying scores in basic skills.**

24
25 The minimum qualifying scores in basic skills must be determined
26 by the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education
27 by August 1, 2000. These minimum qualifying scores must be based
28 on a study of the data compiled during the 1999 standard-setting
29 meetings.

30
31 **Sec. 6. Effective date.** Those sections of this Act that amend
32 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 13032, repeal
33 section 13035 and enact sections 13035-A, 13037 and 13038 take
34 effect September 1, 2000.

35
36
37 **SUMMARY**

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39
40 This bill replaces the core battery of the national teachers
41 exam with a different basic skills test. An individual would
42 need to pass this test in order to become fully certified as a
teacher in Maine.