

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1361

H.P. 969

House of Representatives, April 9, 2013

**An Act To Strengthen the Teaching of Writing and Mathematics
and Improve Maine High School Graduates' College and Career
Readiness**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative NELSON of Falmouth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: JORGENSEN of Portland, KUSIAK of Fairfield.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13012, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 845, §4, is
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Endorsements.** The provisional teacher certificate ~~shall~~ **must** be issued with an
5 endorsement ~~which~~ **that** specifies the grades and subject area ~~which~~ **that** the teacher is
6 ~~deemed~~ qualified to teach. The state board shall by rule establish the criteria for assessing
7 teacher proficiency and subject matter competency for the provisional certificate. A
8 holder of a provisional teacher certificate may not teach outside ~~his or her~~ **the holder's**
9 area of endorsement unless ~~he or she~~ **the holder** has received a waiver from the
10 commissioner in accordance with state board rules. These endorsements ~~shall~~ **do** not
11 apply to teachers in private schools approved for attendance purposes only. The state
12 board rules adopted under this section must be amended to require that, beginning
13 September 1, 2014, a provisional certificate may be issued only with an endorsement for
14 specific grades and subject areas to an applicant who meets the requirements of
15 subsection 3-A.

16 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13012, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

17 **3-A. Standards-based endorsements.** Beginning September 1, 2014, in order to
18 help students achieve the core of standards in English language arts and mathematics for
19 kindergarten to grade 12 education established in common with the other states under
20 section 6209, a provisional teacher certificate must be issued with an endorsement that
21 specifies the grades and subject area that the teacher is qualified to teach in accordance
22 with rules established under subsection 3 and an applicant for a provisional teacher
23 certificate must qualify as follows:

24 A. An applicant for a kindergarten to grade 3, a kindergarten to grade 8 or a literacy
25 specialist endorsement or an English language arts endorsement at the secondary
26 school level must have successfully completed 2 upper-level undergraduate courses
27 focused on writing and the teaching of writing, including courses in composition
28 studies, writing studies or composition and rhetoric that include the teaching of
29 writing conventions;

30 B. An applicant for a social studies or a science endorsement at the secondary school
31 level must have successfully completed an upper-level undergraduate course focused
32 on writing and the teaching of writing, including courses in composition studies,
33 writing studies or composition and rhetoric that include the teaching of writing
34 conventions or on writing in the respective subject area and across subject areas at the
35 secondary school level; and

36 C. An applicant for a kindergarten to grade 3 or a kindergarten to grade 8
37 endorsement at the elementary school level must have successfully completed 2
38 upper-level undergraduate courses focused on middle school level mathematics and
39 introductory algebra, including courses in mathematics that are aligned with the core
40 of standards in mathematics for kindergarten to grade 8 established in common with
41 the other states.

1 As an alternative pathway to an endorsement for the specific grades and subject areas set
2 forth in this subsection, the applicant may be issued a provisional teacher certificate with
3 an endorsement specifying the grades and subject area that the teacher is qualified to
4 teach upon the applicant's passing a rigorous performance and standards-based
5 assessment acceptable to the commissioner, including but not limited to the advanced
6 placement test in English composition for endorsements in English and the examination
7 approved by the state board in accordance with section 13011, subsection 7, paragraph B,
8 subparagraph (3) for middle school mathematics for endorsements in mathematics.

9 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13016, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 669, §8, is
10 further amended to read:

11 **2. Professional teacher certificates.** A professional teacher certificate may be
12 renewed for 5-year periods in accordance with state board rules, which must require, at a
13 minimum, that the teacher complete at least 6 hours of professional or academic study, or
14 in-service training designed to improve the performance of the teacher in the field for
15 which the teacher holds an endorsement, or in a related subject area, or to improve the
16 teacher's knowledge of, and skill in, standards-based education. Teachers who desire to
17 qualify for a master teacher certificate must coordinate their continuing professional
18 education with the requirements of an applicable teacher action plan. The state board
19 rules adopted under this subsection must be amended to provide that, beginning
20 September 1, 2014, in order to help students achieve the core of standards in English
21 language arts and mathematics for kindergarten to grade 12 established in common with
22 the other states under section 6209, a professional teacher certificate may be renewed
23 with an endorsement for specific grades and subject areas for a teacher who meets the
24 requirements of paragraph A, B or C.

25 A. Teachers seeking renewal of a professional teacher certificate in the subject area
26 for which the teacher holds an endorsement, including teachers seeking renewal of
27 their kindergarten to grade 8 endorsement, must successfully complete one upper-
28 level undergraduate course focused on nonfiction writing, including courses in
29 writing across the content areas, composition studies, writing studies or composition
30 and rhetoric. The successful completion of a course in nonfiction writing counts as
31 the equivalent of completing 3 credit hours of professional or academic study in
32 fulfillment of the recertification requirements set forth in this subsection.

33 B. As an alternative pathway to completing a course in nonfiction writing in
34 accordance with paragraph A, teachers may demonstrate that they are effective
35 writers and writing instructors by passing a rigorous performance and standards-
36 based assessment acceptable to the commissioner, including but not limited to the
37 advanced placement test in English composition, in which the teacher demonstrates
38 pedagogical and subject matter competencies that are directly related to the
39 endorsement being sought.

40 The successful completion and approval of this alternative pathway to renewal of a
41 professional teacher certification counts as the equivalent of completing 3 credit
42 hours of professional or academic study in fulfillment of the recertification
43 requirements set forth in this subsection.

1 C. Teachers seeking renewal of a professional teacher certificate with a kindergarten
2 to grade 8 endorsement in mathematics must demonstrate sufficient mathematics
3 skills through the middle school level and introductory algebra. Teachers may meet
4 this requirement by achieving the minimum score on the qualifying examination for
5 middle school mathematics established in accordance with section 13032, subsection
6 5. The successful completion of the qualifying examination for middle school
7 mathematics counts as the equivalent of completing 3 credit hours of professional or
8 academic study in fulfillment of the recertification requirements set forth in this
9 subsection.

10 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §13032**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 471, Pt. A, §24, is
11 further amended to read:

12 **§13032. Qualifying examination**

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

18 **4. Basic skills.** Basic skills, which include reading, writing and mathematics-; and

19 **5. Subject area knowledge.** Beginning September 1, 2014, subject area knowledge,
20 which includes knowledge of a specific subject that a kindergarten to grade 12 teacher
21 will teach, as well as general and subject-specific teaching skills and knowledge.

22 The applicant is responsible for the costs associated with taking the teacher
23 qualifying examination.

24 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §13035-A, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

25 **3. Subject area knowledge scores.** Beginning September 1, 2014, in order to be
26 eligible for a provisional teacher certificate, an applicant must achieve the minimum
27 qualifying scores on the teacher qualifying examination in subject area knowledge
28 pursuant to section 13032, subsection 5. A teacher seeking renewal of a professional
29 teacher certificate with a kindergarten to grade 3 or a kindergarten to grade 8
30 endorsement in mathematics must achieve the minimum qualifying score on the teacher
31 qualifying examination for middle school mathematics in accordance with section 13016,
32 subsection 2, paragraph C.

33 **Sec. 6. Determination of minimum qualifying scores in basic skills and**
34 **subject area knowledge.** The State Board of Education and the Commissioner of
35 Education shall review the minimum qualifying examination scores established for
36 issuing a provisional teaching certificate and endorsements in specific grades and subject
37 areas in Department of Education Rule Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for
38 Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators. As part of this review, the State
39 Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education shall consider the following
40 changes to the rules:

1 1. Increasing the minimum qualifying scores on the Pre-Professional Skills Test, also
2 known as PRAXIS I, in the basic skill area of mathematics; and

3 2. Changing the requirement for the General Elementary endorsement for
4 mathematics to provide that applicants for a provisional teaching certificate who will
5 teach mathematics in kindergarten to grade 8 must pass the qualifying examination for
6 middle school mathematics in grades 5 to 8.

7 The State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education shall determine the
8 minimum qualifying scores in basic skills and subject area knowledge required for
9 teaching mathematics by August 1, 2014. These minimum qualifying scores and subject
10 area knowledge requirements must be based on a study of qualifying examination data
11 compiled during the 2013 and 2014 standard-setting meetings conducted by the State
12 Board of Education.

13 **Sec. 7. Rulemaking.** Not later than September 1, 2014, the Department of
14 Education and the State Board of Education shall amend Department of Education Rule
15 Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and
16 Administrators and Department of Education Rule Chapter 115: Certification,
17 Authorization, and Approval of Education Personnel as necessary to implement this Act.

18 **Sec. 8. Education Coordinating Committee; college readiness testing.** The
19 Education Coordinating Committee, referred to in this section as "the committee,"
20 established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 9, shall conduct a review of
21 the placement tests, including the ACCUPLACER test, used by the University of Maine
22 System, the Maine Community College System, the Maine Maritime Academy and
23 secondary schools in the State to determine a high school graduate's college readiness.
24 As part of this review, the committee shall determine a strategic plan or policies that
25 recommend the use of an appropriate placement test or tests, including the
26 ACCUPLACER test, as a means to determine the college readiness of Maine high school
27 students. The strategic plan or policies recommended by the committee must consider the
28 following initiatives:

29 1. As long as the Maine Community College System uses the ACCUPLACER test to
30 determine a high school graduate's college readiness, a high school student in the State
31 whose score on the Preliminary SAT or the assessment tests administered to measure
32 student proficiency in the Common Core State Standards is not sufficient to qualify the
33 student to take regular college classes at the Maine Community College System must be
34 required to take the ACCUPLACER test at least once prior to November of the student's
35 junior year;

36 2. Any student who does not meet the minimum qualifying score on the
37 ACCUPLACER test that is sufficient to qualify the student to take regular college classes
38 at the Maine Community College System must be assigned to classes or programs
39 beginning before or during the 2nd semester of the student's 11th grade school year that
40 will assist the student in improving the student's score, and the student must be assigned
41 to continue in the classes or programs until the student meets the minimum qualifying
42 score on the ACCUPLACER test; and

