

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 50

H.P. 36

House of Representatives, January 10, 2017

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Teacher Certification

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield.
Cosponsored by Senator DOW of Lincoln and
Representatives: GERRISH of Lebanon, HERRICK of Paris, LOCKMAN of Amherst,
STEARNS of Guilford, STROM of Pittsfield, VACHON of Scarborough, WARD of Dedham,
Senator: WHITTEMORE of Somerset.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13011, sub-§6**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2011, c.
3 635, Pt. B, §2, is amended to read:

4 **6. Alternative pathways to certification.** The state board shall develop and adopt
5 rules providing a method for a person who has not completed an approved educator
6 preparation program as defined under section 13008 to obtain provisional ~~educator~~
7 teacher certification through an alternative pathway that meets the requirements in section
8 13012, subsection 7 or that:

9 A. Is designed for candidates who can demonstrate subject matter competency that is
10 directly related to the certificate endorsement being sought and obtained through
11 prior academic achievement or work experience;

12 B. May feature an accelerated program of preparation;

13 C. Uses mentorship programs that partner teacher candidates with mentor teachers;
14 and

15 D. Includes accountability provisions to ensure that teacher candidates demonstrate
16 the knowledge and skills established pursuant to section 13012, subsection 2-B prior
17 to issuance of a provisional teacher certificate.

18 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13012, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

19 **7. Alternate pathway to provisional teacher certificate.** Notwithstanding
20 subsections 2-A, 2-B and 5 and sections 13032 and 13035-A, a person who has not
21 completed an approved educator preparation program as defined under section 13008 is
22 eligible for a provisional teacher certificate if that person:

23 A. Has attained certification from a nonprofit organization described in 26 United
24 States Code, Section 501(c)(3) that:

25 (1) Was founded with grant funding from the United States Department of
26 Education;

27 (2) Developed a certification program designed for professionals who want to
28 change careers and become teachers; and

29 (3) Requires an applicant to possess a bachelor's degree; and

30 B. Has satisfactorily completed a criminal history record check in accordance with
31 section 13011, subsection 8.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill provides that a person who has not completed an approved educator
34 preparation program is eligible for a provisional teacher certificate if that person has
35 satisfactorily completed a criminal history record check and attained certification from a
36 nonprofit organization that was founded with United States Department of Education

1 funding and that developed a certification program designed for professionals who want
2 to change careers.