

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1149

H.P. 827

House of Representatives, March 22, 2021

An Act To Provide Exemptions from Certain Teacher Certification Examination Requirements

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 18, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FECTION of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Representatives: LYMAN of Livermore Falls, ROCHE of Wells, SAMPSON of Alfred, STEARNS of Guilford, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13013, sub-§2-B, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 235, §12
3 and affected by §41, is amended to read:

4 A. Has graduated from an educator preparation program and has passed a qualifying
5 ~~exam~~ examination or has received a qualifying examination waiver pursuant to section
6 13032-A;

7 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13032, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 235, §30 and
8 affected by §41, is further amended to read:

9 A professional teacher certificate may be issued only to those applicants who have
10 taken and passed the applicable teacher qualifying examination. This limitation does not
11 apply to applicants seeking a certificate under section 13013, subsection 2-B, paragraph B,
12 but such applicants must meet any ~~exam~~ examination requirement necessary for the
13 endorsement being sought. This section does not apply to applicants who receive a
14 qualifying examination waiver pursuant to section 13032-A.

15 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13032-A** is enacted to read:

16 **§13032-A. Qualifying examination waiver**

17 **1. Professional teacher certificate.** The commissioner shall waive the examination
18 requirement under section 13032 for an applicant seeking a professional teacher certificate
19 if the applicant has satisfactorily completed a bachelor's degree program from a regionally
20 accredited college or university with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, on a
21 scale of 4.0, or its equivalent.

22 **2. Endorsements.** The commissioner shall waive any examination requirement for
23 an endorsement for an applicant seeking the endorsement who has satisfactorily completed
24 a bachelor's degree program from a regionally accredited college or university with an
25 overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, on a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent in the content
26 area of the endorsement being sought.

27 **3. Professional teacher certificate; teaching experience under conditional**
28 **certificate.** The commissioner shall waive the examination requirement for any
29 pedagogical knowledge and skills assessment or its equivalent and any principles of
30 learning and teaching assessment or its equivalent in department rule for any applicant
31 seeking a professional teacher certificate who has successfully completed 2 full years of
32 teaching under a conditional certificate. The waiver under this subsection does not apply
33 to applicants who are enrolled in an educator preparation program and who have not yet
34 completed the requirements for a bachelor's degree.

35 Rules adopted to implement this section are not subject to the provisions of section
36 13006-A, subsection 3.

37 **Sec. 4. Rules.** By January 1, 2022, the State Board of Education shall amend the
38 Department of Education's rule Chapter 115: the Credentialing of Education Personnel, and
39 the Commissioner of Education shall amend the Department of Education's rule Chapter
40 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists, and Administrators, as
41 necessary to be consistent with this Act.

1 **SUMMARY**

2 This bill provides waivers of the applicable qualifying examinations for the following
3 applicants for professional teacher certificates or endorsements:

4 1. For applicants seeking a professional teacher certificate who have satisfactorily
5 completed a bachelor's degree program from a regionally accredited college or university
6 with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, on a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent;

7 2. For applicants seeking endorsements who have satisfactorily completed a bachelor's
8 degree program from a regionally accredited college or university with an overall grade
9 point average of 3.0 or higher, on a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent in the content area of the
10 endorsement being sought; and

11 3. For applicants seeking a professional teacher certificate who are required to take the
12 pedagogical knowledge and skills assessment and principles of learning and teaching
13 assessment by Department of Education rule but who have successfully completed 2 full
14 years of teaching under a conditional certificate.

15 This bill also provides that rules adopted to implement the qualifying examination
16 waivers are not subject to the law that provides that an amendment to the teacher
17 certification rules that revises the qualifications for a credential for a professional teacher
18 certificate does not apply to certain persons; this change ensures that the qualifying
19 examination waivers are available to all eligible applicants.