

# ALASKA LEGISLATURE

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## Sectional Analysis | HB 24 – Limited Teacher Certificates

HB 24 repeals and re-enacts AS 14.20.025.

### Section 14.20.025(a)

The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) may issue limited teacher certificates in certain specialty areas:

- Alaska Native culture;
- Military science;
- Vocational or technical education;
- Classes taught in non-English languages.

Under current law, limited certificates may be issued for teaching Alaska Native languages or culture, military science, and vocational or technical education. HB 24 adds classes taught in non-English languages to the existing list.

Certificates issued under this section in one of these specialty areas are subject to the provisions of AS 14.20.025 and exempt from certain requirements of AS 14.20.020 or AS 14.20.022.

### Section 14.20.025(b)

Limited certificates can only be issued to a person if the school board of the district in which the person will teach has requested a limited certificate for that specific person. The limited certificate is valid only in the district that makes the request.

A person may only receive a limited certificate if they demonstrate “instructional skills and subject matter expertise sufficient to assure the public that the person is competent as a teacher.” This language is used in current law, and like in current law, the state board of education is empowered to write regulations interpreting it.

The state board of education’s regulations may require that a limited certificate holder undertake additional academic training.

### Section 14.20.025(c)

A limited teacher certificate must specify the language(s) and subject(s) for which it is valid.

Restates that limited certificates can only be issued to a person if the school board of the district in which the person will teach has requested a limited certificate for that specific person. The limited certificate is valid only in the district that makes the request.

#### **Section 14.20.025(d)**

Gives the state board of education authority to write regulations implementing AS 14.20.025.

Provides that the regulations cannot require a certificate applicant to achieve a minimum score on an exam unless that exam is given in the instructional language the certificate will be valid for (e.g. a teacher who will be teaching only in German or Iñupiaq cannot be required to pass an exam given in English).

#### **Section 14.20.25(e)**

Limited certificates are initially valid for one year. Terms and lengths of extension and renewal shall be set by the state board of education. In order for a limited certificate to be extended or renewed, the school board that initially requested the certificate must certify that the certificate holder has demonstrated skills in classroom instruction and student assessment.