

SENATE BILL NO. 20

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR STEVENS

Introduced: 1/22/21

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to recognition of certificates of out-of-state teachers."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 14.20.010 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 14.20.010. Teacher certificate required.** A person may not be employed
5 as a teacher in the public schools of the state unless that person possesses a valid
6 teacher certificate except that a person who has made application to the department for
7 a teacher certificate [, INCLUDING A PRELIMINARY TEACHER CERTIFICATE
8 UNDER AS 14.20.015,] or renewal of a teacher certificate that has not been acted on
9 [UPON] by the department may be employed as a teacher in the public schools of the
10 state until the department has taken action on the application, but in no case may
11 employment without a certificate last longer than three months. A person who has
12 made application for a certificate under this section may teach for an additional 60
13 days beyond three months without a certificate if the department grants a written
14 extension. An extension may be granted under this section for not more than 60 days
15 to the person solely due to delay in the department's receipt of criminal justice

1 information under AS 12.62 or a national criminal history record check under
2 AS 12.62.400.

3 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.20.015(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) **Notwithstanding the requirements of AS 14.20.020, the** [THE]
5 department shall issue a [PRELIMINARY] teacher certificate to an out-of-state
6 teacher who meets the requirements of this section. To be eligible for a
7 [PRELIMINARY] teacher certificate **under this section**, a person shall

8 (1) [HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST A BACCALAUREATE
9 DEGREE FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITED
10 BY A RECOGNIZED REGIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION OR
11 APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER;

12 (2)] hold a valid teacher certificate issued by another state;

13 **(2)** [(3)] have submitted fingerprints to the department to be used for a
14 criminal history background check and been found by the department to be suitable for
15 employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f);

16 **(3)** [(4)] have paid the fee required by the department under
17 AS 14.20.020(c).

18 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.20.015(b) is amended to read:

19 (b) An out-of-state teacher who has been issued a [PRELIMINARY] teacher
20 certificate under this section shall **complete the education and training**
21 **requirements under AS 14.20.020(h) and (k) within three years** [PASS THE
22 COMPETENCY EXAMINATION DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD UNDER
23 AS 14.20.020(i) WITHIN ONE YEAR] after the date the [PRELIMINARY] teacher
24 certificate was issued. If the teacher does not **complete the education and training**
25 **requirements within that three-year period** [PASS THE EXAMINATION], the
26 department shall immediately revoke the teacher's [PRELIMINARY] teacher
27 certificate.

28 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.20.015(c) is amended to read:

29 (c) The [PRELIMINARY] teacher certificate issued under this section must
30 contain the same endorsements as those on the current valid teacher certificate issued
31 by the other state.

1 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.20.020(b) is amended to read:

2 (b) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless that person has
3 received at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education
4 accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association or approved by the
5 commissioner and, if applicable, has passed the examination or examinations required
6 by (i) of this section. However, this subsection is not applicable to

7 (1) persons employed in the state public school system on
8 September 1, 1962;

9 (2) persons issued an emergency certificate during a situation that, in
10 the judgment of the commissioner, requires the temporary issuance of a certificate to a
11 person not otherwise qualified;

12 **(3) persons issued a teacher certificate under AS 14.20.015.**

13 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.20.020(h) is amended to read:

14 (h) **Except as provided in AS 14.20.015, a** [A] person is not eligible for a
15 teacher certificate unless the person has completed three semester hours in Alaska
16 studies and three semester hours in multicultural education or cross-cultural
17 communications. However, the commissioner may issue a provisional certificate, valid
18 for no longer than two years, to an applicant who has not completed the semester
19 hours required under this subsection at the time of application.

20 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.20.020(k) is amended to read:

21 (k) **Except as provided in AS 14.20.015, a** [A] person is not eligible for a
22 teacher certificate unless the person has completed training regarding alcohol and drug
23 related disabilities required under AS 14.20.680, training regarding sexual abuse and
24 sexual assault awareness and prevention required under AS 14.30.355, training
25 regarding dating violence and abuse awareness and prevention required under
26 AS 14.30.356, and training related to suicide prevention required under AS 14.30.362.

27 * **Sec. 8.** AS 14.20.015(d), 14.20.015(e), and 14.20.015(f) are repealed.