

**SENATE BILL NO. 136**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR OLSON

Introduced: 4/24/23

Referred: Education

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to teacher certificates and teacher preparation programs; and**  
2 **providing for an effective date."**

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

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 14.20.020(b) is amended to read:

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

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

12 (2) persons issued an emergency certificate during a situation that, in  
13 the judgment of the commissioner, requires the temporary issuance of a certificate to a  
14 person not otherwise qualified.

1 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.20.020(c) is amended to read:

2 (c) The board may establish by regulation additional requirements for the  
3 issuance of certificates. **The regulations must allow the board to issue a teacher**  
4 **certificate to a person who has successfully completed a teacher preparation**  
5 **program approved under (m) of this section.** The board shall require teachers to  
6 submit fingerprints and the fees required by the Department of Public Safety under  
7 AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and a national criminal history record  
8 check. The board shall submit the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public  
9 Safety for a report of criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national  
10 criminal history record check under AS 12.62.400. The department shall establish by  
11 regulation the fees to be charged for each certificate and for other charges assessed  
12 against teachers as part of certification. In establishing the fees to be charged, the  
13 department shall establish the fee levels so that the total amount of the fees collected  
14 relating to the certification of teachers approximately equals, when added to the other  
15 fees collected from teachers, the actual regulatory costs for certifying and disciplining  
16 teachers in the state. The department shall annually review each fee level to determine  
17 whether the regulatory costs are approximately equal to fee collections. If the review  
18 indicates that fee collections and regulatory costs are not approximately equal, the  
19 department shall calculate fee adjustments to the fees for certification of teachers and  
20 adopt regulations under this subsection to implement the adjustments. In January of  
21 each year, the department shall report on all fee levels and revisions for the previous  
22 year under this subsection to the office of management and budget. The department  
23 shall consider the board's recommendations concerning the fee levels and regulatory  
24 costs before revising fee schedules to comply with this subsection. In this subsection,  
25 "regulatory costs" means costs of the department that are attributable to regulation of  
26 the teaching profession, including the portion of the expenses of the board that are  
27 attributable to the regulation of the teaching profession and the expenses of the  
28 Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

29 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.20.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

30 (m) The board shall establish standards for the approval of teacher preparation  
31 programs. The standards must

1 (1) be comparable to the standards for approving teacher preparation  
2 programs through a national organization recognized by the Council for Higher  
3 Education Accreditation or an organization approved by the commissioner; and

4 (2) allow the board to approve a teacher preparation program offered  
5 by an organization that has operated a teacher preparation program for at least five  
6 years and that operates a teacher preparation program in at least five states.

7 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.20.022(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) To be eligible for a subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate, a  
9 person shall

10 (1) hold at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher  
11 education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or  
12 approved by the commissioner and

13 (A) have majored or minored in the subject that the person will  
14 be teaching; or

15 (B) have at least five years **of** experience in the subject matter  
16 that the person will be teaching;

17 (2) have submitted fingerprints and the fees required by the  
18 Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and  
19 a national criminal history record check to the department; the department must have  
20 submitted the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of  
21 criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record  
22 check under AS 12.62.400 and the person must have been found by the department to  
23 be suitable for employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f); and

24 (3) be currently enrolled in an approved  
25 **(A)** post-baccalaureate teacher education program at a  
26 **nationally or** regionally accredited institution meeting the requirements of  
27 AS 14.20.020(b) that provides for completion of the regular teacher certificate  
28 education requirements within two years after receipt of a subject-matter  
29 expert limited teacher certificate under this section; **or**

30 **(B) a teacher preparation program approved under**  
31 **AS 14.20.020(m).**

1      \* **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2023.