

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 20(EDC)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 3/19/21**

**Referred: Finance**

**Sponsor(s): SENATOR STEVENS**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to teaching certificates for teachers holding out-of-state certificates."**

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 degree from an institution of  
9 higher education accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association or  
10 approved by the commissioner;

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

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

15 (4) have paid the fee required by the department under  
16 AS 14.20.020(c).

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

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

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

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

31 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.20.015 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

1 (g) The department shall by regulation adopt a process to expedite issuance of  
2 a certificate to the spouse of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United  
3 States.

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

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

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

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

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