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3 SENATE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HB506, AS
4 ENGROSSED

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9 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the State Superintendent
10 of Education is authorized to issue emergency
11 teaching certificates, which are valid for one
12 year, to certain individuals when otherwise
13 certified teachers are not available.

14 This bill would extend the validity of an
15 emergency teaching certificate to two years, with
16 the ability of being renewed once, for a maximum
17 validity of four years.

18
19 A BILL
20 TO BE ENTITLED
21 AN ACT

22
23 To amend Section 16-23-3, Code of Alabama 1975,
24 relating to provisional teaching certificates; to extend the
25 length of time an emergency certificate is valid from one to
26 two years, with the ability of being renewed once, for a
27 maximum validity of four years.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

2 Section 1. Section 16-23-3 of the Code of Alabama
3 1975, is amended to read as follows:

4 "§16-23-3.

5 "(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the
6 State of Alabama shall modify its policies relative to the
7 certification of teachers to permit an expanded alternative
8 certification program for prospective teachers for grades six
9 through 12. In addition to certificates issued pursuant to
10 this chapter to ~~persons~~ individuals graduating from approved
11 teacher education programs, the State Board of Education shall
12 adopt policies, procedures, rules, regulations, ~~and/or~~ or
13 standards authorizing an alternative certificate to be issued
14 by the State Superintendent of Education to an individual
15 ~~person~~, regardless of whether ~~such person~~ the individual is a
16 graduate of an approved teacher education program, where the
17 applicant shall:

18 "(1) Hold an earned bachelor's or higher degree from
19 a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

20 "(2) Submit the required application forms and fees
21 and, when required, a separate fingerprint fee, along with
22 fingerprints and release forms.

23 "(3) Be recommended for certification by the
24 employing Alabama local school superintendent or private
25 school administrator.

26 "(4) Be assigned a mentor by the employing
27 superintendent or private school administrator.

1 "(5) Meet the requirements of the Alabama
2 Prospective Teacher Testing Program as set forth by the State
3 Board of Education.

4 "(6) Verify compliance with one of the following
5 admission criteria:

6 "a. That at least 32 semester hours credit, 19 of
7 which ~~must~~ shall be upper division level, have been earned in
8 the field for which certification is sought.

9 "b. An earned bachelor's or higher degree from a
10 regionally accredited institution of higher education with a
11 non-education major in the academic area for which
12 certification is sought.

13 "c. A passing score on the appropriate Praxis II
14 content test of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing
15 Program.

16 "(7) Request that an official transcript be sent
17 directly to the employing superintendent or private school
18 administrator.

19 "(b) Any alternative certificate shall be valid for
20 the period of time as shall be set by policies, procedures,
21 rules, regulations, ~~and/or~~ or standards which shall be adopted
22 by the State Board of Education but in no event shall such
23 period extend beyond four years from the July 1 beginning date
24 of the initial alternative certificate.

25 "(c) Where ~~a person~~ an individual has received an
26 alternative certificate or certificates and has been employed
27 for three full years by no more than two county or city school

1 boards or private schools while holding alternative
2 certificates, ~~such person~~ the individual may be granted a
3 teaching certificate issued by the State Superintendent of
4 Education pursuant to Section 16-23-1, when:

5 "(1) Approved by the State Superintendent of
6 Education.

7 "(2) Approved according to policies, procedures,
8 rules, regulations, ~~and/or~~ or standards which shall be adopted
9 by the State Board of Education. Such policies, procedures,
10 rules, regulations, ~~and/or~~ or standards shall require that the
11 recipient of an alternative certificate successfully complete
12 no more than the equivalent of ~~twelve~~ 12 semester hours of
13 college course work in education related courses, as may be
14 determined by the State Board of Education based upon factors
15 such as the recipient's individual educational background,
16 prior to the issuance of a teaching certificate pursuant to
17 Section 16-23-1.

18 "(d) Any ~~person~~ individual granted a teaching
19 certificate issued by the State Superintendent of Education
20 pursuant to Section 16-23-1, following the receipt of an
21 alternative certificate, as herein provided, may be eligible
22 to attain continuing service status pursuant to Chapter 24, of
23 this title. Time served as a teacher pursuant to an
24 alternative certificate shall be counted in determining
25 continuing service status pursuant to Section 16-24-2.

26 "(e) The State Superintendent of Education in cases
27 of emergency when certified teachers, including teachers who

1 may have received alternative certificates pursuant to this
2 section, are not available may grant emergency certificates of
3 the different kinds and grades, but any such emergency
4 certificate shall not be valid for a period to exceed ~~one year~~
5 two years but shall expire at the end of the scholastic year
6 for which it is issued, ~~and such emergency certificate shall~~
7 ~~not~~. An emergency certificate may be extended or renewed one
8 time as provided by policies, procedures, rules, regulations,
9 or standards adopted by the State Board of Education, for a
10 maximum validity of four years. Time served as a teacher
11 pursuant to an emergency certificate shall not be counted in
12 determining continuing service status pursuant to Section
13 16-24-2.

14 "(f) Any alternative certificate issued pursuant to
15 this section shall be limited to ~~persons~~ individuals teaching
16 grades six through 12; provided, however, that an alternative
17 certificate may be issued for ~~persons~~ individuals teaching
18 grades kindergarten through eight if limited to the subject
19 areas of the fine arts ~~and/or~~ or foreign languages, or both."

20 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
21 first day of the third month following its passage and
22 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.