

1 SB88  
2 203951-1  
3 By Senator Jones  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 04-FEB-20  
6 PFD: 02/03/2020

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the State Board of Education is authorized to establish and issue alternative teaching certificates to qualified individuals who may not have graduated from an approved teacher education program.

This bill would authorize the State Board of Education to establish and award an alternative teaching certificate to certain qualified former members of the United States Armed Forces.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Section 16-23-3, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to provisional teaching certificates; to authorize the State Board of Education to establish and issue an alternative teaching certificate to certain qualified former members of the United States Armed Forces.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

3                   "§16-23-3.

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

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

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

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

24                   "(4) Be assigned a mentor by the employing  
25 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 shall be upper division level, have been earned in the  
8 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) The State Board of Education shall further  
20 adopt policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or standards  
21 authorizing an alternative certificate to be issued by the  
22 State Superintendent of Education to an individual, regardless  
23 of whether the individual is a graduate of an approved teacher  
24 education program, where the applicant shall:

25           "(1) Hold a master's or higher degree from a  
26 regionally accredited institution of higher education.

1           "(2) Be a retiree in good standing, or honorably  
2 discharged former member of the Armed Forces of the United  
3 States, with at least 10 years of service.

4           "(3) Otherwise satisfy all other requirements of  
5 subsection (a), as they relate to a master's or higher degree,  
6 except for the requirement that he or she verify a passing  
7 score on the appropriate Praxis II content test of the Alabama  
8 Prospective Teacher Testing Program as provided in paragraph  
9 c. of subdivision (6) of subsection (a).

10           ~~"(b)~~ (c) Any alternative certificate shall be valid  
11 for the period of time as shall be set by policies,  
12 procedures, rules, regulations, or standards which shall be  
13 adopted by the State Board of Education but in no event shall  
14 such period extend beyond four years from the July 1 beginning  
15 date of the initial alternative certificate.

16           ~~"(c)~~ (d) Where an individual has received an  
17 alternative certificate or certificates and has been employed  
18 for three full years by no more than two county or city school  
19 boards or private schools while holding alternative  
20 certificates, the individual may be granted a teaching  
21 certificate issued by the State Superintendent of Education  
22 pursuant to Section 16-23-1, when:

23           "(1) Approved by the State Superintendent of  
24 Education.

25           "(2) Approved according to policies, procedures,  
26 rules, regulations, or standards which shall be adopted by the  
27 State Board of Education. Such policies, procedures, rules,

1 regulations, or standards shall require that the recipient of  
2 an alternative certificate successfully complete no more than  
3 the equivalent of 12 semester hours of college course work in  
4 education related courses, as may be determined by the State  
5 Board of Education based upon factors such as the recipient's  
6 individual educational background, prior to the issuance of a  
7 teaching certificate pursuant to Section 16-23-1.

8 "~~(d)~~ (e) Any individual granted a teaching  
9 certificate issued by the State Superintendent of Education  
10 pursuant to Section 16-23-1, following the receipt of an  
11 alternative certificate, as herein provided, may be eligible  
12 to attain continuing service status pursuant to Chapter ~~24~~ of  
13 ~~this title~~ 24C, the Students First Act of 2011. Time served as  
14 a teacher pursuant to an alternative certificate shall be  
15 counted in determining continuing service status pursuant to  
16 Section ~~16-24-2~~ 16-24C-4.

17 "~~(e)~~ (f) The State Superintendent of Education in  
18 cases of emergency when certified teachers, including teachers  
19 who may have received alternative certificates pursuant to  
20 this section, are not available may grant emergency  
21 certificates of the different kinds and grades, but any such  
22 emergency certificate shall not be valid for a period to  
23 exceed two years but shall expire at the end of the scholastic  
24 year for which it is issued. An emergency certificate may be  
25 extended or renewed one time as provided by policies,  
26 procedures, rules, regulations, or standards adopted by the  
27 State Board of Education, for a maximum validity of four

1 years. Time served as a teacher pursuant to an emergency  
2 certificate shall not be counted in determining continuing  
3 service status pursuant to Section ~~16-24-2~~ 16-24C-4.

4 "~~(f)~~ (g) Any alternative certificate issued pursuant  
5 to this section shall be limited to individuals teaching  
6 grades six through 12; provided, however, that an alternative  
7 certificate may be issued for individuals teaching grades  
8 kindergarten through eight if limited to the subject areas of  
9 the fine arts or foreign languages, or both."

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