

1 SB16  
2 208246-2  
3 By Senator Jones  
4 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs  
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21  
6 PFD: 12/08/2020

1 SB16

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4 ENROLLED, An Act,

5 To amend Section 16-23-3, Code of Alabama 1975, as  
6 amended by Act 2019-364, 2019 Regular Session, relating to  
7 provisional teaching certificates; to authorize the State  
8 Board of Education to establish and issue an alternative  
9 teaching certificate to certain qualified former members of  
10 the United States Armed Forces.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

12 Section 1. Section 16-23-3 of the Code of Alabama  
13 1975, as amended by Act 2019-364, 2019 Regular Session, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "§16-23-3.

16 "(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
17 State of Alabama shall modify its policies relative to the  
18 certification of teachers to permit an expanded alternative  
19 certification program for prospective teachers for grades six  
20 through 12. In addition to certificates issued pursuant to  
21 this chapter to individuals graduating from approved teacher  
22 education programs, the State Board of Education shall adopt  
23 policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or standards  
24 authorizing an alternative certificate to be issued by the  
25 State Superintendent of Education to an individual, regardless

1 of whether the individual is a graduate of an approved teacher  
2 education program, where the applicant shall:

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

5 "(2) Submit the required application forms and fees  
6 and, when required, a separate fingerprint fee, along with  
7 fingerprints and release forms.

8 "(3) Be recommended for certification by the  
9 employing Alabama local school superintendent or private  
10 school administrator.

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

13 "(5) Meet the requirements of the Alabama  
14 Prospective Teacher Testing Program as set forth by the State  
15 Board of Education.

16 "(6) Verify compliance with one of the following  
17 admission criteria:

18 "a. That at least 30 semester hours credit, 18 of  
19 which shall be upper division level, have been earned in the  
20 field for which certification is sought.

21 "b. An earned bachelor's or higher degree from a  
22 regionally accredited institution of higher education with a  
23 non-education major in the academic area for which  
24 certification is sought.

1            "c. A passing score on the appropriate Praxis II  
2 content test of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing  
3 Program.

4            "(7) Request that an official transcript be sent  
5 directly to the employing superintendent or private school  
6 administrator.

7            "(b) The State Board of Education shall further  
8 adopt policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or standards  
9 authorizing an alternative certificate to be issued by the  
10 State Superintendent of Education to an individual, regardless  
11 of whether the individual is a graduate of an approved teacher  
12 education program, where the applicant shall:

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

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

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

24            "~~(b)~~ (c) Any alternative certificate shall be valid  
25 for the period of time as shall be set by policies,

1 procedures, rules, regulations, or standards which shall be  
2 adopted by the State Board of Education but in no event shall  
3 such period extend beyond four years from the July 1 beginning  
4 date of the initial alternative certificate.

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

12 "(1) Approved by the State Superintendent of  
13 Education.

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

24 "~~(d)~~ (e) Any individual granted a teaching  
25 certificate issued by the State Superintendent of Education

1 pursuant to Section 16-23-1, following the receipt of an  
2 alternative certificate, as herein provided, may be eligible  
3 to attain continuing service status pursuant to Chapter ~~24~~ of  
4 ~~this title~~ 24C, the Students First Act of 2011. Time served as  
5 a teacher pursuant to an alternative certificate shall be  
6 counted in determining continuing service status pursuant to  
7 Section ~~16-24-2~~ 16-24C-4.

8 "~~(e)~~ (f) The State Superintendent of Education in  
9 cases of emergency when certified teachers, including teachers  
10 who may have received alternative certificates pursuant to  
11 this section, are not available may grant emergency  
12 certificates of the different kinds and grades, but any such  
13 emergency certificate shall not be valid for a period to  
14 exceed two years but shall expire at the end of the scholastic  
15 year for which it is issued. An emergency certificate may be  
16 extended or renewed one time as provided by policies,  
17 procedures, rules, regulations, or standards adopted by the  
18 State Board of Education, for a maximum validity of four  
19 years. Time served as a teacher pursuant to an emergency  
20 certificate shall not be counted in determining continuing  
21 service status pursuant to Section ~~16-24-2~~ 16-24C-4.

22 "~~(f)~~ (g) Any alternative certificate issued pursuant  
23 to this section shall be limited to individuals teaching  
24 grades six through 12; provided, however, that an alternative  
25 certificate may be issued for individuals teaching grades

1 kindergarten through eight if limited to the subject areas of  
2 the fine arts or foreign languages, or both."

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

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB16  
Senate 04-FEB-21  
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed  
the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Amended and passed 04-MAR-21

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Senate concurred in House amendment 09-MAR-21

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By: Senator Jones