

1 HB307  
2 217195-3  
3 By Representatives Baker, Scott, Collins and Ledbetter  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 08-FEB-22

1 ENGROSSED

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4 A BILL  
5 TO BE ENTITLED  
6 AN ACT  
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8 To amend Section 16-23-3, Code of Alabama 1975, as  
9 amended by Act 2021-111, 2021 Regular Session, and to add  
10 Section 16-23-3.01 to the Code of Alabama 1975, relating to  
11 provisional teaching certificates; to authorize the issuance  
12 of a professional educator certificate to qualified  
13 individuals who have held an alternative certificate for one  
14 year, instead of three years; and to authorize the issuance of  
15 a professional educator certificate to a qualified individual  
16 who completes an alternative teacher preparation program  
17 offered by an approved alternative teacher education  
18 preparation organization.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. Section 16-23-3, Code of Alabama 1975, as  
21 amended by Act 2021-111, 2021 Regular Session, is amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 "§16-23-3.

24 "(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
25 State of Alabama shall modify its policies relative to the  
26 certification of teachers to permit an expanded alternative  
27 certification program for prospective teachers ~~for grades six~~

1 ~~through 12.~~ Further, it is the intent of the Legislature that  
2 policies, rules, and regulations impacting alternative  
3 teaching certificate and teacher preparation programs shall  
4 create an equal opportunity for design, approval, delivery,  
5 implementation, and continued review for accredited teacher  
6 education programs at a traditional institution of higher  
7 education as are created for alternative teacher preparation  
8 programs offered by approved alternative teacher education  
9 preparation organizations. In addition to certificates issued  
10 pursuant to this chapter to individuals graduating from  
11 approved teacher education programs, the State Board of  
12 Education shall adopt policies, procedures, rules,  
13 regulations, or standards authorizing an alternative  
14 certificate to be issued by the State Superintendent of  
15 Education to an individual, regardless of whether the  
16 individual is a graduate of an approved teacher education  
17 program, where the applicant shall:

18           "(1) Hold an earned bachelor's or higher degree from  
19 a regionally accredited institution of higher education which  
20 offers, at a minimum, junior and senior level courses of  
21 instruction.

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

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

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

3           "(5) Meet the requirements of the Alabama  
4 ~~Prospective Teacher Testing~~ Educator Certification Assessment  
5 Program as set forth by the State Board of Education.

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

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

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

15           "c. A passing score on the appropriate Praxis  
16 content test of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing  
17 Program.

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

21           "d. Any other admission criteria established by the  
22 State Board of Education.

23           "(b) The State Board of Education shall further  
24 adopt policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or standards  
25 authorizing an alternative certificate to be issued by the  
26 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 a master's or higher degree from a  
4 regionally accredited institution of higher education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21           "(f) The State Superintendent of Education, in cases  
22 of emergency when certified teachers, including teachers who  
23 may have received alternative certificates pursuant to this  
24 section, are not available, may grant emergency certificates  
25 of the different kinds and grades, but any such emergency  
26 certificate shall not be valid for a period to exceed two  
27 years but shall expire at the end of the scholastic year for

1 which it is issued. An emergency certificate may be extended  
2 or renewed one time as provided by policies, procedures,  
3 rules, regulations, or standards adopted by the State Board of  
4 Education, for a maximum validity of four years. Time served  
5 as a teacher pursuant to an emergency certificate shall not be  
6 counted in determining continuing service status pursuant to  
7 Section 16-24C-4.

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

14 Section 2. Section 16-23-3.01 is added to the Code  
15 of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

16 §16-23-3.01.

17 (a) The State of Alabama shall modify its policies  
18 relative to the certification of teachers to permit the  
19 issuance of a professional educator certificate to those  
20 qualified individuals who successfully complete an approved  
21 alternative teacher education preparation organization. In  
22 addition to any provisional certificates and professional  
23 certificates issued pursuant to this chapter to individuals  
24 graduating from approved teacher education programs, the State  
25 Board of Education shall authorize the issuance of a  
26 professional educator certificate by the State Superintendent  
27 of Education to a qualified individual who completes an

1 approved alternative teacher education preparation  
2 organization.

3 (b) The State Superintendent of Education shall  
4 maintain a database of alternative teacher education  
5 preparation organizations, approved by the State Board of  
6 Education, as a means for screening, recruiting, and  
7 recommending for certification qualified individuals to teach  
8 in the public K-12 schools. An approved alternative teacher  
9 education preparation organization, at a minimum, shall  
10 require each applicant whom the approved organization  
11 recommends for initial licensure to satisfy all of the  
12 following:

13 (1) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited  
14 institution of higher education which offers, at a minimum,  
15 junior and senior level courses of instruction.

16 (2) Successfully pass a criminal history background  
17 information check.

18 (3) Successfully complete an alternative teacher  
19 preparation program offered by the approved organization.

20 (c) In determining which alternative teacher  
21 education preparation organizations to approve, the State  
22 Board of Education, may consider prerequisites including, but  
23 not limited to, the following:

24 (1) Successful operation in at least five states.

25 (2) Successful operation of an alternative teacher  
26 preparation program for at least 10 years.



1                   (3) Requirement that an applicant pass a subject  
2 area examination or professional teaching examination, or  
3 both.

4                   (d) An individual who is granted a professional  
5 educator certificate pursuant to this section may teach in the  
6 subject areas and at the educational levels he or she has  
7 successfully completed through the alternative teacher  
8 preparation program offered by the approved alternative  
9 teacher education preparation organization.

10                   (e) An individual who holds a professional educator  
11 certificate pursuant to this section may apply for a  
12 professional renewal license and shall in all other respects  
13 be treated in the same manner as an individual who holds a  
14 professional educator certificate granted upon successful  
15 completion of traditional, in-state teaching certification  
16 programs.

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

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-  
ferred to the House of Representa-  
tives committee on Education Policy  
..... 08-FEB-22

Read for the second time and placed  
on the calendar..... 16-FEB-22

Read for the third time and passed  
as amended..... 24-FEB-22

Yeas 101, Nays 0, Abstains 0

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk