

1 SB236
2 216316-1
3 By Senator Albritton
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 17-FEB-22

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

This bill would authorize the State Superintendent of Education to issue temporary senior educator certificates to certain individuals who are age 65 or older, to perform teaching, coaching, and other reasonable and necessary functions in the public schools.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Section 16-23-3, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended by Act 2021-111 of the 2021 Regular Session, relating to provisional teaching certificates; to authorize the State Superintendent of Education to issue temporary senior educator

1 certificates to certain individuals, age 65 and over, to
2 perform teaching, coaching, and other reasonable and necessary
3 functions in the public schools.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

5 Section 1. To amend Section 16-23-3, Code of Alabama
6 1975, as amended by Act 2021-111 of the 2021 Regular Session,
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 "§16-23-3.

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

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

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

1 "(3) Be recommended for certification by the
2 employing Alabama local school superintendent or private
3 school administrator.

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

6 "(5) Meet the requirements of the Alabama
7 Prospective Teacher Testing Program as set forth by the State
8 Board of Education.

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

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

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

18 "c. A passing score on the appropriate Praxis
19 content test of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing
20 Program.

21 "(7) Request that an official transcript be sent
22 directly to the employing superintendent or private school
23 administrator.

24 "(b) The State Board of Education shall further
25 adopt policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or standards
26 authorizing an alternative certificate to be issued by the
27 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 while holding alternative certificates, the
24 individual may be granted a teaching certificate issued by the
25 State Superintendent of Education pursuant to Section 16-23-1,
26 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) The State Superintendent of Education, when
9 certified teachers, including teachers who may have received
10 alternative certificates pursuant to this section, are not
11 available, may grant senior educator certificates of the
12 different kinds and grades to any individual who is age 65 or
13 older, and holds a four-year degree. A senior educator
14 certificate shall entitle the holder to provide classroom
15 instruction, coach athletic teams, and perform other
16 reasonable duties deemed necessary by the principal of the
17 school he or she is serving. A senior educator certificate
18 shall not be valid for a period to exceed two years but shall
19 expire at the end of the scholastic year for which it is
20 issued. A senior educator certificate may be extended or
21 renewed one time as provided by policies, procedures, rules,
22 regulations, or standards adopted by the State Board of
23 Education, for a maximum validity of four years. Time served
24 as a teacher or coach pursuant to a senior educator
25 certificate shall not be counted in determining continuing
26 service status pursuant to Section 16-24C-4.

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

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