HB342 INTRODUCED

1  XSPIEE-1
2  By Representative DuBose
3  RFD: Education Policy
4  First Read: 18-Apr-23
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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the State Superintendent of Education is authorized to issue professional educator certificates to qualified individuals who complete an alternative teacher preparation program offered by an approved alternative teacher education preparation organization.

This bill would provide additional requirements for programs.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Relating to alternative teacher preparation programs and teacher certification; to amend Section 2 of Act 2022-239, 2022 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide additional requirements for programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 2 of Act 2022-239, 2022 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§16-23-3.1
(a) The State of Alabama shall modify its policies relative to the certification of teachers to permit the issuance of a professional educator certificate to those qualified individuals who successfully complete an approved alternative teacher preparation program. In addition to any provisional certificates and professional certificates issued pursuant to this chapter to individuals graduating from approved teacher education programs, the State Board of Education shall authorize the issuance of a professional educator certificate by the State Superintendent of Education to a qualified individual who completes an approved alternative teacher preparation program.

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

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

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

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

(c) In Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, in determining which alternative teacher education preparation organizations to approve, the State Board of Education may consider prerequisites including, but not limited to, only the following prerequisites:

(1) Successful operation in at least five states.
(2) Successful operation of an alternative teacher education preparation program for at least 10 years.
(3) Requirement that an applicant pass a subject area examination, professional teaching examination, or both.
(4) Evidence of successfully certifying at least 10,000 teachers in the United States.

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

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

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