

HB308 ENGROSSED



1 HB308
2 WIGT599-2
3 By Representatives Collins, DuBose
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 07-Mar-24



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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to alternative teacher certification; to amend Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended by Act 2023-451, 2023 Regular Session; to provide that an additional method by which certain alternative teacher examination preparation programs may be approved by the State Board of Education; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended by Act 2023-451, 2023 Regular Session, 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



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29 approved teacher education programs, the State Board of
30 Education shall authorize the issuance of a professional
31 educator certificate by the State Superintendent of Education
32 to a qualified individual who completes an approved
33 alternative teacher preparation program.

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

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

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

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

51 (c) (1) Any provision of law to the contrary
52 notwithstanding, in determining which alternative teacher
53 education preparation organizations to approve, the State
54 Board of Education shall consider only the following
55 prerequisites:

56 a. Successful operation in at least five states and is



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57 not on probation in any of those states. This requirement does
58 not apply to two-year or four-year institutions of higher
59 education operating in the state with state-approved programs.

60 b. Successful operation of an alternative teacher
61 education preparation program for at least 10 years.

62 c. Requirement that an applicant pass an examination
63 that is substantively aligned with Alabama standards in
64 subject area, pedagogy, or both.

65 d. Evidence of successfully certifying at least 10,000
66 teachers in the United States. This requirement does not apply
67 to two-year or four-year institutions of higher education
68 operating in the state with state-approved programs.

69 (2) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, if ~~if~~ an
70 alternative teacher education preparation organization does
71 not satisfy the prerequisites provided in paragraphs (1)a.
72 through (1)d. subdivision (1), the alternative teacher
73 education preparation organization may be approved if the
74 organization is certified by the Council for the Accreditation
75 of Education Educator Preparation or the Association for
76 Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation. In order to qualify
77 for approval under this section, an alternative teacher
78 certification program organization certified by the
79 Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation must
80 have begun an application with the Council for the
81 Accreditation of Educator Preparation by April 1, 2024.
82 Beginning October 1, 2026, certification by the Association
83 for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation shall no longer
84 qualify an alternative teacher education preparation



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85 organization for approval under this section.

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

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

99 (f) An approved alternative teacher education
100 preparation organization shall submit a detailed report to the
101 State Board of Education annually detailing the number of
102 individuals who completed the program during that year.

103 (g) Upon receiving an alternative certificate to teach
104 pursuant to this section, the teacher shall participate in the
105 Alabama Teacher Mentorship Program if hired by a local board
106 of education that participates in the program."

107 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
108 1, 2024.

