

HB308 INTRODUCED



1 HB308
2 VEI5LPP-1
3 By Representatives Collins, DuBose
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 07-Mar-24



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, an alternative teacher education preparation organization that does not meet certain criteria may be approved by the State Board of Education if it is certified by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

This bill would provide that an alternative teacher education preparation organization may also be approved if it is accredited by a member of the Council for Higher Education which specializes in educator preparation.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

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



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29 Board of Education; and to make nonsubstantive, technical
30 revisions to update the existing code language to current
31 style.

32 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

33 Section 1. Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, as
34 last amended by Act 2023-451, 2023 Regular Session, is amended
35 to read as follows:

36 "§16-23-3.1

37 (a) The State of Alabama shall modify its policies
38 relative to the certification of teachers to permit the
39 issuance of a professional educator certificate to those
40 qualified individuals who successfully complete an approved
41 alternative teacher preparation program. In addition to any
42 provisional certificates and professional certificates issued
43 pursuant to this chapter to individuals graduating from
44 approved teacher education programs, the State Board of
45 Education shall authorize the issuance of a professional
46 educator certificate by the State Superintendent of Education
47 to a qualified individual who completes an approved
48 alternative teacher preparation program.

49 (b) The State Superintendent of Education shall
50 maintain a database of alternative teacher education
51 preparation organizations, approved by the State Board of
52 Education, as a means for screening, recruiting, and
53 recommending for certification qualified individuals to teach
54 in the public K-12 schools. An approved alternative teacher
55 education preparation organization, at a minimum, shall
56 require each applicant whom the approved organization



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57 recommends for initial licensure to satisfy all of the
58 following:

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

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

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

66 (c) (1) Any provision of law to the contrary
67 notwithstanding, in determining which alternative teacher
68 education preparation organizations to approve, the State
69 Board of Education shall consider only the following
70 prerequisites:

71 a. Successful operation in at least five states and is
72 not on probation in any of those states. This requirement does
73 not apply to two-year or four-year institutions of higher
74 education operating in the state with state-approved programs.

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

77 c. Requirement that an applicant pass an examination
78 that is substantively aligned with Alabama standards in
79 subject area, pedagogy, or both.

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

84 (2) If an alternative teacher education preparation



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85 organization does not satisfy the prerequisites provided in
86 ~~paragraphs (1)a. through (1)d.~~ subdivision (1), the
87 alternative teacher education preparation organization may be
88 approved if the organization is: (i) certified by the Council
89 for the Accreditation of ~~Education~~ Educator Preparation; or
90 (ii) accredited by a member of the Council for Higher
91 Education Accreditation which specializes in educator
92 preparation.

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

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

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

110 (g) Upon receiving an alternative certificate to teach
111 pursuant to this section, the teacher shall participate in the
112 Alabama Teacher Mentorship Program if hired by a local board



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113 of education that participates in the program."

114 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October

115 1, 2024.