



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 1149

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H.P. 827

House of Representatives, March 22, 2021

### **An Act To Provide Exemptions from Certain Teacher Certification Examination Requirements**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on March 18, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FECTEAU of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Representatives: LYMAN of Livermore Falls, ROCHE of Wells, SAMPSON of Alfred, STEARNS of Guilford, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13013, sub-§2-B, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 235, §12  
3 and affected by §41, is amended to read:

4 A. Has graduated from an educator preparation program and has passed a qualifying  
5 ~~exam~~ examination or has received a qualifying examination waiver pursuant to section  
6 13032-A;

7 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13032, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 235, §30 and  
8 affected by §41, is further amended to read:

9 A professional teacher certificate may be issued only to those applicants who have  
10 taken and passed the applicable teacher qualifying examination. This limitation does not  
11 apply to applicants seeking a certificate under section 13013, subsection 2-B, paragraph B,  
12 but such applicants must meet any ~~exam~~ examination requirement necessary for the  
13 endorsement being sought. This section does not apply to applicants who receive a  
14 qualifying examination waiver pursuant to section 13032-A.

15 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13032-A** is enacted to read:

16 **§13032-A. Qualifying examination waiver**

17 **1. Professional teacher certificate.** The commissioner shall waive the examination  
18 requirement under section 13032 for an applicant seeking a professional teacher certificate  
19 if the applicant has satisfactorily completed a bachelor's degree program from a regionally  
20 accredited college or university with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, on a  
21 scale of 4.0, or its equivalent.

22 **2. Endorsements.** The commissioner shall waive any examination requirement for  
23 an endorsement for an applicant seeking the endorsement who has satisfactorily completed  
24 a bachelor's degree program from a regionally accredited college or university with an  
25 overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, on a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent in the content  
26 area of the endorsement being sought.

27 **3. Professional teacher certificate; teaching experience under conditional**  
28 **certificate.** The commissioner shall waive the examination requirement for any  
29 pedagogical knowledge and skills assessment or its equivalent and any principles of  
30 learning and teaching assessment or its equivalent in department rule for any applicant  
31 seeking a professional teacher certificate who has successfully completed 2 full years of  
32 teaching under a conditional certificate. The waiver under this subsection does not apply  
33 to applicants who are enrolled in an educator preparation program and who have not yet  
34 completed the requirements for a bachelor's degree.

35 Rules adopted to implement this section are not subject to the provisions of section  
36 13006-A, subsection 3.

37 **Sec. 4. Rules.** By January 1, 2022, the State Board of Education shall amend the  
38 Department of Education's rule Chapter 115: the Credentialing of Education Personnel, and  
39 the Commissioner of Education shall amend the Department of Education's rule Chapter  
40 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists, and Administrators, as  
41 necessary to be consistent with this Act.

1 **SUMMARY**

2 This bill provides waivers of the applicable qualifying examinations for the following  
3 applicants for professional teacher certificates or endorsements:

4 1. For applicants seeking a professional teacher certificate who have satisfactorily  
5 completed a bachelor's degree program from a regionally accredited college or university  
6 with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, on a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent;

7 2. For applicants seeking endorsements who have satisfactorily completed a bachelor's  
8 degree program from a regionally accredited college or university with an overall grade  
9 point average of 3.0 or higher, on a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent in the content area of the  
10 endorsement being sought; and

11 3. For applicants seeking a professional teacher certificate who are required to take the  
12 pedagogical knowledge and skills assessment and principles of learning and teaching  
13 assessment by Department of Education rule but who have successfully completed 2 full  
14 years of teaching under a conditional certificate.

15 This bill also provides that rules adopted to implement the qualifying examination  
16 waivers are not subject to the law that provides that an amendment to the teacher  
17 certification rules that revises the qualifications for a credential for a professional teacher  
18 certificate does not apply to certain persons; this change ensures that the qualifying  
19 examination waivers are available to all eligible applicants.