

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 448

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROWDEN.

1925S.01H

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

## AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to visiting scholars teaching certificates.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new  
2 section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021,  
3 to read as follows:

168.021. 1. Certificates of license to teach in the  
2 public schools of the state shall be granted as follows:

3 (1) By the state board, under rules and regulations  
4 prescribed by it:

5 (a) Upon the basis of college credit;

6 (b) Upon the basis of examination;

7 (2) By the state board, under rules and regulations  
8 prescribed by the state board with advice from the advisory  
9 council established by section 168.015 to any individual who  
10 presents to the state board a valid doctoral degree from an  
11 accredited institution of higher education accredited by a  
12 regional accrediting association such as North Central  
13 Association. Such certificate shall be limited to the major  
14 area of postgraduate study of the holder, shall be issued  
15 only after successful completion of the examination required  
16 for graduation pursuant to rules adopted by the state board  
17 of education, and shall be restricted to those certificates

**EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

18 established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of  
19 this section;

20 (3) By the state board, which shall issue the  
21 professional certificate classification in both the general  
22 and specialized areas most closely aligned with the current  
23 areas of certification approved by the state board,  
24 commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the  
25 applicant, and based upon the following criteria:

26 (a) Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-  
27 level teacher preparation program;

28 (b) Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying  
29 score on the exit assessment for teachers or administrators  
30 designated by the state board of education. Applicants who  
31 have not successfully achieved a qualifying score on the  
32 designated examinations will be issued a two-year  
33 nonrenewable provisional certificate; and

34 (c) Upon completion of a background check as  
35 prescribed in section 168.133 and possession of a valid  
36 teaching certificate in the state from which the applicant's  
37 teacher preparation program was completed;

38 (4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it,  
39 on the basis of a relevant bachelor's degree, or higher  
40 degree, and a passing score for the designated exit  
41 examination, for individuals whose academic degree and  
42 professional experience are suitable to provide a basis for  
43 instruction solely in the subject matter of banking or  
44 financial responsibility, at the discretion of the state  
45 board. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area  
46 of study of the holder and shall be restricted to those  
47 certificates established under subdivision (2) of subsection  
48 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted under  
49 this subdivision shall be exempt from the teacher tenure act

50 under sections 168.102 to 168.130 and each school district  
51 shall have the decision-making authority on whether to hire  
52 the holders of such certificates;

53 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations  
54 prescribed by it, on the basis of certification by the  
55 American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence  
56 (ABCTE) and verification of ability to work with children as  
57 demonstrated by sixty contact hours in any one of the  
58 following areas as validated by the school principal: sixty  
59 contact hours in the classroom, of which at least forty-five  
60 must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute  
61 teacher, with at least thirty consecutive hours in the same  
62 classroom; sixty contact hours of teaching in a private  
63 school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a  
64 paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE certificate  
65 of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not  
66 be granted for the areas of early childhood education, or  
67 special education. For certification in the area of  
68 elementary education, ninety contact hours in the classroom  
69 shall be required, of which at least thirty shall be in an  
70 elementary classroom. Upon the completion of the **following**  
71 requirements [listed in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of  
72 this subdivision], an applicant shall be eligible to apply  
73 for a career continuous professional certificate under  
74 subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this section:

75 (a) Completion of thirty contact hours of professional  
76 development within four years, which may include hours spent  
77 in class in an appropriate college curriculum;

78 (b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring  
79 program of the American Board for Certification of Teacher  
80 Excellence or a district mentoring program approved by the  
81 state board of education;

82 (c) Attainment of a successful performance-based  
83 teacher evaluation; and

84 (d) Participation in a beginning teacher assistance  
85 program; or

86 (6) (a) By the state board, under rules and  
87 regulations prescribed by [it] **the board**, which shall issue  
88 an initial visiting scholars certificate at the discretion  
89 of the board, based on the following criteria:

90 [(a)] **a.** Verification from the hiring school district  
91 that the applicant will be employed as part of a business-  
92 education partnership initiative designed to build career  
93 pathways systems **or employed as part of an initiative**  
94 **designed to fill vacant positions in hard-to-staff public**  
95 **schools or hard-to-fill subject areas** for students in a  
96 grade or grades not lower than the ninth grade for which the  
97 applicant's academic degree or professional experience  
98 qualifies [him or her] **the applicant;**

99 [(b)] **b.** Appropriate and relevant bachelor's degree or  
100 higher, occupational license, or industry-recognized  
101 credential;

102 [(c)] **c.** Completion of the application for a one-year  
103 visiting scholars certificate; and

104 [(d)] **d.** Completion of a background check as  
105 prescribed under section 168.133.

106 (b) The initial visiting scholars certificate shall  
107 certify the holder of such certificate to teach for one  
108 year. An applicant shall be eligible to renew an initial  
109 visiting scholars certificate a maximum of two times, based  
110 upon the completion of the requirements listed under  
111 [paragraphs (a), (b), and (d)] **subparagraphs a, b, and d of**  
112 **paragraph (a)** of this subdivision; completion of  
113 professional development required by the school district and

114 school; and attainment of a satisfactory performance-based  
115 teacher evaluation.

116         2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to  
117 law or state board policies and regulations prior to  
118 September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the professional  
119 development requirements of this section and shall continue  
120 in effect until they expire, are revoked or suspended, as  
121 provided by law. When such certificates are required to be  
122 renewed, the state board or its designee shall grant to each  
123 holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly  
124 equivalent to the one so held. Anyone who holds, as of  
125 August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II, or continuous  
126 professional certificate shall, upon expiration of [his or  
127 her] **such person's** current certificate, be issued the  
128 appropriate level of certificate based upon the  
129 classification system established pursuant to subsection 3  
130 of this section.

131         3. (1) Certificates of license to teach in the public  
132 schools of the state shall be based upon minimum  
133 requirements prescribed by the state board of education  
134 which shall include completion of a background check as  
135 prescribed in section 168.133. The state board shall  
136 provide for the following levels of professional  
137 certification: an initial professional certificate and a  
138 career continuous professional certificate.

139         (2) The initial professional certificate shall be  
140 issued upon completion of requirements established by the  
141 state board of education and shall be valid based upon  
142 verification of actual teaching within a specified time  
143 period established by the state board of education. The  
144 state board shall require holders of the four-year initial  
145 professional certificate to:

146 (a) Participate in a mentoring program approved and  
147 provided by the district for a minimum of two years;

148 (b) Complete thirty contact hours of professional  
149 development, which may include hours spent in class in an  
150 appropriate college curriculum, or for holders of a  
151 certificate under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this  
152 section, an amount of professional development in proportion  
153 to the certificate holder's hours in the classroom, if the  
154 certificate holder is employed less than full time; and

155 (c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance  
156 program.

157 (3) (a) The career continuous professional  
158 certificate shall be issued upon verification of completion  
159 of four years of teaching under the initial professional  
160 certificate and upon verification of the completion of the  
161 requirements articulated in paragraphs (a) [, (b), and] **to**  
162 (c) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or paragraphs  
163 (a) [, (b), (c), and] **to** (d) of subdivision (5) of subsection  
164 1 of this section.

165 (b) The career continuous professional certificate  
166 shall be continuous based upon verification of actual  
167 employment in an educational position as provided for in  
168 state board guidelines and completion of fifteen contact  
169 hours of professional development per year which may include  
170 hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum.  
171 Should the possessor of a valid career continuous  
172 professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet  
173 the fifteen-hour professional development requirement, the  
174 possessor may, within two years, make up the missing hours.  
175 In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall  
176 first complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current  
177 year and then may count hours in excess of the current year

178 requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to  
179 make up the missing hours within two years, the certificate  
180 shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the  
181 certificate, the possessor shall complete twenty-four  
182 contact hours of professional development which may include  
183 hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college  
184 curriculum within the six months prior to or after  
185 reactivating [his or her] **the possessor's** certificate. The  
186 requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and  
187 verified by the local school district which employs the  
188 holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

189 (c) A holder of a career continuous professional  
190 certificate shall be exempt from the professional  
191 development contact hour requirements of paragraph (b) of  
192 this subdivision if such teacher has a local professional  
193 development plan in place within such teacher's school  
194 district and meets two of the three following criteria:

195 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by  
196 the state board of education;

197 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

198 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as  
199 approved by the state board of education.

200 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by  
201 which a teacher who was not retained due to a reduction in  
202 force may retain the current level of certification. There  
203 shall also be established policies and procedures allowing a  
204 teacher who has not been employed in an educational position  
205 for three years or more to reactivate [his or her] **the**  
206 **teacher's** last level of certification by completing twenty-  
207 four contact hours of professional development which may  
208 include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate

209 college curriculum within the six months prior to or after  
210 reactivating [his or her] **the teacher's** certificate.

211         5. The state board shall, upon completion of a  
212 background check as prescribed in section 168.133, issue a  
213 professional certificate classification in the areas most  
214 closely aligned with an applicant's current areas of  
215 certification, commensurate with the years of teaching  
216 experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to  
217 teach in a public school in this state and who possesses a  
218 valid teaching certificate from another state or  
219 certification under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this  
220 section, provided that the certificate holder shall annually  
221 complete the state board's requirements for such level of  
222 certification, and shall establish policies by which  
223 residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be  
224 assessed a fee for a certificate of license to teach in the  
225 public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount  
226 sufficient to recover any or all costs associated with the  
227 issuing of a certificate of license to teach. The board  
228 shall promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a  
229 provisional certificate of license, which shall be valid for  
230 three years and shall allow the holder to assume classroom  
231 duties pending the completion of a criminal background check  
232 under section 168.133, for any applicant who:

233           (1) Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces  
234 stationed in Missouri;

235           (2) Relocated from another state within one year of  
236 the date of application;

237           (3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to  
238 be issued a teaching certificate of license from another  
239 state; and

240           (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.



241           6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial  
242 professional certificate a fee, to be deposited into the  
243 excellence in education [revolving] fund established  
244 pursuant to section 160.268, for the issuance of the career  
245 continuous professional certificate. However, such fee  
246 shall not exceed the combined costs of issuance and any  
247 criminal background check required as a condition of  
248 issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate  
249 shall be responsible for any fees associated with the  
250 program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but  
251 nothing in this section shall prohibit a district from  
252 developing a policy that permits fee reimbursement.

253           7. Any member of the public school retirement system  
254 of Missouri who entered covered employment with ten or more  
255 years of educational experience in another state or states  
256 and held a certificate issued by another state and  
257 subsequently worked in a school district covered by the  
258 public school retirement system of Missouri for ten or more  
259 years who later became certificated in Missouri shall have  
260 that certificate dated back to [his or her] **the member's**  
261 original date of employment in a Missouri public school.

262           8. Within thirty days of receiving an application from  
263 a spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the  
264 United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to be  
265 transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been  
266 transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to an adjacent  
267 state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri,  
268 or has moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-  
269 of-station basis and has successfully completed the  
270 background check described under subsection 5 of this  
271 section and section 168.133, the state board shall issue to  
272 such applicant a full certificate of license to teach,

273 provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and  
274 has otherwise met all requirements to be issued such a  
275 certificate.

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