

As Further Amended by House Committee

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Session of 2024

HOUSE BILL No. 2521

By Committee on K-12 Education Budget

Requested by Representative Thomas

1-17

1 AN ACT concerning education; relating to the state board of education;  
2 authorizing teaching licenses for individuals who complete an  
3 alternative teacher certification program.  
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) The state board of education shall authorize any  
7 individual who has completed an alternative teacher certification program  
8 to apply for and obtain ~~an initial~~ **a restricted** teaching license **subject to**  
9 **the requirements of this section.** ~~Such applicant shall not be required to~~  
10 ~~comply with either of the following requirements as a prerequisite to~~  
11 ~~obtaining a teaching license pursuant to this section:~~

12 (1) ~~Complete a professional education pedagogy coursework at an~~  
13 ~~accredited college or university engaged in teacher preparation; or~~

14 (2) ~~hold a valid teaching license in another state that was earned~~  
15 ~~through completion of an alternative teacher certification program.~~

16 (b) An applicant who applies for ~~an initial~~ **a restricted** teaching  
17 license pursuant to this section shall:

18 (1) Submit an official transcript confirming the granting of a  
19 bachelor's degree or higher **in any field of study from a college or**  
20 **university that has an accreditation recognized by the state board of**  
21 **education;**

22 (2) submit proof of completion of the alternative teacher certification  
23 program **and a passing score on a subject area examination approved**  
24 **by the state board of education or a praxis test;**

25 (3) submit an application for ~~an initial~~ **a restricted** license with the  
26 required licensure fee; ~~and~~

27 (4) complete all background check requirements; **and**

28 (5) **comply with any other requirements established by the state**  
29 **board of education that are comparable to other licensing**  
30 **requirements established by the state board.**

31 (c) An applicant who obtains ~~an initial~~ **a restricted** teaching license  
32 pursuant to this section shall be authorized to teach the subject area and  
33 educational level that correspond to the certification received through the

1 applicant's successful completion of the alternative teacher certification  
2 program, including:

- 3 (1) Elementary education;
- 4 (2) elementary education ~~with a reading endorsement~~ **unified**;
- 5 (3) English language arts;
- 6 (4) ~~United States and world history,~~ **government and social studies**;
- 7 (5) mathematics;
- 8 (6) general science;
- 9 (7) biology;
- 10 (8) chemistry;
- 11 (9) physics; ~~and~~
- 12 (10) **secondary education unified**; and
- 13 (11) **high-incidence and low-incidence** special education.

14 ~~(d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), Prior to the granting of~~  
15 ~~an initial teaching license to any applicant pursuant to this section, the~~  
16 ~~state board of education may establish and grant to any such~~  
17 ~~individual a restricted or probationary teaching license while such~~  
18 ~~individual completes any mentorship program required pursuant to~~  
19 ~~paragraph (3):~~

20 ~~(2) The state board shall treat an individual who successfully~~  
21 ~~completes a mentorship program under a restricted or probationary~~  
22 ~~teaching license and any individual who obtains an initial teaching~~  
23 ~~license pursuant to this section in the same manner as an individual who~~  
24 ~~completes a traditional teacher preparation program and receives an initial~~  
25 ~~teaching license, including during the process of converting such initial~~  
26 ~~teaching license to another license type.~~

27 ~~(2)(3) The state board may require~~ An individual who obtains **or**  
28 **seeks to obtain an initial a restricted** teaching license pursuant to this  
29 section ~~to~~ **shall** participate in a school district-based teacher mentorship  
30 program during the first-year **two years** such person is employed by a  
31 school district in this state. **As part of such school district-based teacher**  
32 **mentorship program, the school district board of education shall**  
33 **submit a progress report each year to the state board of education, on**  
34 **a form and in the manner required by the state board, to verify that**  
35 **the individual has made appropriate progress toward full licensure.**

36 **(2) If appropriate progress has been made toward full licensure at**  
37 **the end of the two-year mentorship, an individual who holds a**  
38 **restricted teaching license pursuant to this section shall be authorized**  
39 **to apply for and may obtain a full Kansas teaching license. Such**  
40 **individual shall be treated in the same manner as an individual who**  
41 **completes a traditional teacher preparation program.**

42 **(3) If appropriate progress is not made toward full licensure, the**  
43 **state board may cancel the restricted license.**

1 (e) The state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations  
2 necessary to carry out this section.

3 (f) As used in this section, "alternative teacher certification program"  
4 means a teacher preparation program that:

5 (1) Operates in at least five states;

6 (2) has been in operation for at least 10 years;

7 (3) includes subject-area content training and pedagogical training  
8 that covers effective instructional delivery, classroom management and  
9 organization, assessment, instructional design and professional learning  
10 and leadership; and

11 (4) requires applicants to pass a subject area examination and a  
12 pedagogy examination to successfully complete the program.

13 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
14 publication in the statute book.