

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.

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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 teaching license. Such applicant shall not
9 be required to comply with either of the following requirements as a
10 prerequisite to obtaining a teaching license pursuant to this section:

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

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

15 (b) An applicant who applies for an initial teaching license pursuant
16 to this section shall:

17 (1) Submit an official transcript confirming the granting of a
18 bachelor's degree or higher;

19 (2) submit proof of completion of the alternative teacher certification
20 program;

21 (3) submit an application for an initial license with the required
22 licensure fee; and

23 (4) complete all background check requirements.

24 (c) An applicant who obtains an initial teaching license pursuant to
25 this section shall be authorized to teach the subject area and educational
26 level that correspond to the certification received through the applicant's
27 successful completion of the alternative teacher certification program,
28 including:

29 (1) Elementary education;

30 (2) elementary education with a reading endorsement;

31 (3) English language arts;

32 (4) United States and world history;

33 (5) mathematics;

34 (6) general science;

35 (7) biology;

- 1 (8) chemistry;
- 2 (9) physics; and
- 3 (10) special education.

4 (d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the state board shall treat
5 an individual who successfully obtains an initial teaching license pursuant
6 to this section in the same manner as an individual who completes a
7 traditional teacher preparation program and receives an initial teaching
8 license, including during the process of converting such initial teaching
9 license to another license type.

10 (2) The state board may require an individual who obtains an initial
11 teaching license pursuant to this section to participate in a school district-
12 based teacher mentorship program during the first year such person is
13 employed by a school district in this state.

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

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

- 18 (1) Operates in at least five states;
- 19 (2) has been in operation for at least 10 years;
- 20 (3) includes subject-area content training and pedagogical training
21 that covers effective instructional delivery, classroom management and
22 organization, assessment, instructional design and professional learning
23 and leadership; and
- 24 (4) requires applicants to pass a subject area examination and a
25 pedagogy examination to successfully complete the program.

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