

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 814

## 91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHIELDS.

Read 1<sup>st</sup> time February 15, 2001, and 1000 copies ordered printed.

TED WEDEL, Chief Clerk

1958L.011

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### AN ACT

To repeal sections 161.097, 168.011, 168.015 and 168.021, RSMo 2000, relating to certification of teachers, and to enact in lieu thereof five new sections relating to the same subject.

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

Section A. Sections 161.097, 168.011, 168.015, and 168.021, RSMo 2000, are repealed  
2 and five new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 161.097, 168.011,  
3 168.015, 168.021 and 168.023, to read as follows:

161.097. 1. The state board of education shall establish standards and procedures by  
2 which it will evaluate all teacher training institutions in this state for the approval of teacher  
3 education programs. The state board of education shall not require teacher training institutions  
4 to meet national or regional accreditation as a part of its standards and procedures in making  
5 those evaluations, but it may accept such accreditations in lieu of such approval if standards and  
6 procedures set thereby are at least as stringent as those set by the board. The state board of  
7 education's standards and procedures for evaluating teacher training institutions shall equal or  
8 exceed those of national or regional accrediting associations, **and shall establish reciprocal**  
9 **approval of teacher training institutions which have been approved by the state board of**  
10 **education, or similar entity performing such functions, of any other state in the United**  
11 **States.**

12 2. Upon approval **or establishment of reciprocity** by the state board of education of the  
13 teacher education program at a particular teacher training institution, any person who graduates  
14 from that program, and who meets other requirements which the state board of education shall  
15 prescribe by rule, regulation and statute shall be granted a certificate or license to teach in the

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

16 public schools of this state. However, no such rule or regulation shall require that the program  
17 from which the person graduates be accredited by any national or regional accreditation  
18 association.

19 3. Notwithstanding any provision in the law to the contrary, the state board of education  
20 may accredit a graduate law school and any graduate of such an accredited law school shall be  
21 allowed to take the examination for admission to the bar of Missouri.

168.011. 1. No person shall be employed to teach in any position in a public school until  
2 he **or she** has received a valid certificate of license, **from this state or from another state**  
3 **through the reciprocity process established pursuant to section 168.021**, entitling him **or her**  
4 to teach in that position.

5 2. Teaching in the state of Missouri, performing other related education duties, school  
6 administration, and teacher education are hereby declared to be professions with all the  
7 appropriate rights, responsibilities and privileges accorded to other recognized professions.

168.015. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and  
2 secondary education, the "Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators", hereinafter  
3 known as the "advisory council", which shall be composed of twenty-five members to be  
4 appointed by the state board of education on the recommendation of the commissioner of  
5 education. Of the twenty-five members of the council, fifteen must be active public school  
6 classroom teachers.

7 2. The duties and responsibilities of the advisory council shall include, but not be limited  
8 to:

9 (1) Making recommendations for the criteria and procedures whereby the quality and  
10 effectiveness of teacher and school administrator education programs within the state shall be  
11 evaluated;

12 (2) Making recommendations for the requirements for the certification of public school  
13 teachers and administrators;

14 (3) Making recommendations for the standards for renewal of certificates for public  
15 school teachers and administrators using academic course work as well as other types of  
16 professional development;

17 (4) Making recommendations concerning rules and regulations with respect to  
18 suspension and revocation of certificates of license to teach;

19 (5) Requesting and receiving reports from committees consisting of representatives from  
20 various professional groups, qualified in respective curriculum areas and other specialized areas,  
21 to assist in the formulation of recommendations of the advisory committee to the commissioner  
22 of education with respect to certification of public school teachers and administrators;

23 (6) Making recommendations for limiting the issuance of temporary certificates that are

24 granted to those who do not meet the full requirements for **either certification or reciprocity;**  
25 **(7) Making recommendations as to which national teacher certification reciprocity**  
26 **system, if any, should be adopted by the board.**

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

3 (1) By the state board, [under] **pursuant to** rules and regulations prescribed by it[.]:

4 (a) Upon the basis of college credit;

5 (b) Upon the basis of examination;

6 (2) By the state board, [under] **pursuant to** rules and regulations prescribed by the state  
7 board with advice from the advisory council established by section 168.015 to any individual  
8 who presents to the state board a valid doctor of philosophy degree from an accredited institution  
9 of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting association such as North Central  
10 Association. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of postgraduate study of the  
11 holder, shall be issued only after successful completion of the examination required for  
12 graduation pursuant to section 168.033 if appropriate, and shall be restricted to those certificates  
13 established pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection 4 of this section; or

14 (3) By the state board **to an applicant seeking reciprocal certification in this state,**  
15 **[which] in which case the state board** shall issue the professional certificate classification in  
16 both the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with the current areas of certification  
17 approved by the state board, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the  
18 applicant, [and] **provided that such applicant shall not receive reciprocal certification in this**  
19 **state unless such applicant has at least three years of prior teaching experience. Nothing**  
20 **in this subdivision shall prevent any such teacher having less than three years of experience**  
21 **from obtaining certification in the same manner as other teachers in this state.**  
22 **Applications for reciprocal certification for any teacher having the requisite years of**  
23 **experience shall be based upon the following criteria:**

24 (a) Recommendation of **either** a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation  
25 program **or a reciprocally approved baccalaureate level teacher preparation program**  
26 **pursuant to section 161.097, RSMo;**

27 (b) [Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit assessment for  
28 teachers or administrators designated by the state board of education. Applicants who have not  
29 successfully achieved a qualifying score on the designated examinations will be issued a  
30 two-year nonrenewable provisional certificate] **Recommendation of any national teacher**  
31 **certification reciprocity system, if such a system is recommended by the advisory board**  
32 **pursuant to section 168.015 and adopted by the board; provided that, if no such system is**  
33 **adopted, then this paragraph shall not apply; and**

34 (c) Upon completion of a background check and possession of a valid teaching certificate  
35 [in the state from which the applicant's teacher preparation program was completed] **from**  
36 **another state.**

37 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board policies and  
38 regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall continue in effect until they expire, are revoked or  
39 suspended, as provided by law. When such certificates are required to be renewed, the state  
40 board or its designee shall grant to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly  
41 equivalent to the one so held.

42 3. Any teacher holding a third class county certificate in the state during the 1972-73  
43 school year shall upon his written request be given an examination by a person designated by the  
44 state commissioner of education to determine his eligibility to be granted a certificate of license  
45 to teach. The examination shall be comparable to those given by county superintendents to  
46 eligible applicants prior to July 1, 1974. Upon successful completion of the examination the  
47 applicant shall be issued a certificate by the state board of education entitling the holder to teach  
48 in the public schools of the state for a period of three years. A request for such examination must  
49 be presented to the commissioner of education on or before March first of the year in which the  
50 examination is to be administered. The commissioner of education shall cause the examination  
51 to be administered and the certificate issued to those successfully completing it prior to April  
52 first of the year in which the application for the examination was received.

53 4. After September 1, 1988, certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the  
54 state shall be based upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education  
55 which shall provide for levels of certification including, but not limited to, an initial professional  
56 certificate and culminating with a continuous professional certificate:

57 (1) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of requirements  
58 established by the state board of education and shall be valid based upon verification of actual  
59 teaching within a specified time period established by the state board of education;

60 (2) One or more levels of renewable professional certificates shall be issued upon  
61 verification of completion of criteria established by the state board of education;

62 (3) The continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon verification of  
63 completion of criteria, which shall not exceed a master's degree or its equivalent and ten years'  
64 employment in an educational position **in this state or any other state**, established by the state  
65 board of education. The continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon  
66 verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board  
67 guidelines.

68 5. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who was not retained  
69 due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of certification. There shall also be

70 established policies and procedures for a teacher who has not been employed in an educational  
71 position for three years or more for reasons other than reduction in force.

72           6. The state board shall establish policies by which residents of states other than the state  
73 of Missouri may be assessed a fee for a certificate license to teach in the public schools of  
74 Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs associated with  
75 the issuing of a certificate of license to teach.

76           7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who entered covered  
77 employment with ten or more years of educational experience in another state or states and held  
78 a certificate issued by another state and subsequently worked in a school district covered by the  
79 public school retirement system of Missouri for ten or more years who later became certificated  
80 in Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to his or her original date of employment in a  
81 Missouri public school.

**168.023. 1. In addition to the certification requirements established pursuant to  
2 section 168.021, the state board of education shall, prior to July 1, 2002, adopt rules  
3 establishing a "fast-track certification program" for persons seeking to teach in this state  
4 who meet the qualifications of this section. Such rules shall allow persons to obtain such  
5 fast-track certification if:**

6           **(1) The person:**

7           **(a) Possesses at least a master's degree from an institution of higher education**  
8 **accredited by a regional accrediting association such as the North Central Association;**  
9 **provided that the area in which such person is seeking to teach or has been hired to teach**  
10 **pursuant to this section shall be limited to such person's major area of postgraduate study;**

11           **(b) Passes a "fast-track certification course", which shall be no longer than one**  
12 **semester in length, to be developed by the department of elementary and secondary**  
13 **education and offered at any of the four-year public institutions of higher education in this**  
14 **state that the department of elementary and secondary education may designate, or at any**  
15 **other accredited four-year institution of higher education in this state if such institution**  
16 **chooses to offer a program in compliance with this paragraph.**

17

18 **Upon successful completion of the requirements of this subdivision, the applicant shall be**  
19 **granted a provisional certificate for one year; and**

20           **(2) After receipt of provisional certification, the teacher submits, in his or her final**  
21 **application for fast-track certification, evidence of one year of satisfactory or higher**  
22 **teacher performance evaluations in the subject matter or certificate area for which such**  
23 **person is seeking fast-track certification.**

24           **2. Fast-track certifications obtained pursuant to this section shall be:**

- 25           **(1) Limited to such person's major area of postgraduate study;**  
26           **(2) Of the same force and effect as other teacher certifications; and**  
27           **(3) Subject to renewal or revocation in the same manner as other teacher**  
28 **certifications.**
- 29           **3. The state board of education may promulgate rules and forms for the**  
30 **enforcement of this section. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to this**  
31 **section shall take effect unless such rule has been promulgated pursuant to chapter 536,**  
32 **RSMo.**