

Chapter 187

(Senate Bill 635)

AN ACT concerning

Washington County State Board of Education and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board – Alternative Teacher Certification Program

FOR the purpose of authorizing the ~~Washington County~~ State Board of Education, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board, and a certain number of local education agencies to ~~establish~~ consider and, if appropriate, develop an alternative teacher certification program for certain areas of the State; authorizing the Board to declare a critical teacher shortage and certify certain candidates to fill certain teacher shortage vacancies in certain areas during a certain time period; specifying who may fill a certain vacant position during the school year; providing that a candidate hired to fill a critical shortage teacher vacancy is not eligible for a certain certificate except under certain circumstances; requiring that certain local education agencies be chosen by the State Superintendent of Schools and be from certain areas; requiring the State Board of Education, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board, and certain local education agencies to consider certain criteria in the consideration of the development of a certain program; requiring the State Board of Education to submit certain information to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to an alternative teacher certification program in Washington County and the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board.

~~BY adding to~~
~~Article – Education~~
~~Section 6 – 122~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the ~~Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article – Education~~

~~6 – 122.~~

~~(A) THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.~~

~~(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE, ON OR AFTER MAY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY:~~

~~(1) DECLARE A CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE; AND~~

~~(2) CERTIFY A CANDIDATE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CRITERIA OF THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, TO FILL A CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE VACANCY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:~~

~~(i) MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION (GRADES 4—9);~~

~~(ii) GENERAL SECONDARY CONTENT AREAS (GRADES 7—12);~~

~~(iii) PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (GRADES 7—12);~~

~~(iv) SPECIALTY AREAS (PREKINDERGARTEN—GRADE 12);~~

~~(v) SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL AREAS (GRADES 7—12);~~

~~(vi) WORLD LANGUAGES (PREKINDERGARTEN—GRADE 12);~~

AND

~~(vii) SCHOOL COUNSELORS.~~

~~(c) IF A POSITION THAT HAS BEEN FILLED UNDER THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM BECOMES VACANT DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR, THE POSITION MAY BE FILLED BY:~~

~~(1) A TEACHER WHO HAS AN EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; OR~~

~~(2) A TEACHER WHO HAS BEEN CERTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.~~

~~(d) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A TEACHER HIRED TO FILL A CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE VACANCY IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AN EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~(2) IF A TEACHER HIRED TO FILL A CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE VACANCY COMPLETES A CERTIFICATION TRACK APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE TERM OF EMPLOYMENT, THE TEACHER MAY BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR AN EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

(a) (1) The State Board of Education, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board, and at least two local education agencies shall consider and, if appropriate, develop an alternative teacher certification program for areas of the State experiencing a critical teacher shortage.

(2) The local education agencies specified under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be selected:

(i) By the State Superintendent of Schools; and

(ii) From one rural area and one urban area.

(b) In considering whether there is a necessity to develop an alternative teacher certification program under subsection (a) of this section, the State Board of Education, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board, and the local education agencies shall, at minimum, consider:

(1) Criteria that ensure that teachers certified under the program have high quality skills while allowing flexibility in the required qualifications; and

(2) Extending the period of validity of a conditional certificate for teachers who teach in recognized education shortage areas, including professional and technical education areas and less commonly taught world languages.

(c) On or before December 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall report the results of the consideration and, if appropriate, the development of a program under subsections (a) and (b) of this section to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.