

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 191

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TEACHERS/CERTIFICATION: Provides relative to teacher certification

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:7.1(A)(4) and 3886(B), relative to teacher certification; to  
3 provide for teacher preparation requirements; to provide for the crediting of teaching  
4 experience; to provide for certification requirements for certain applicants with  
5 respect to performance evaluations; to require the State Board of Elementary and  
6 Secondary Education to adopt rules; to provide for an effective date; and to provide  
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:7.1(A)(4) and 3886(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read  
10 as follows:

11 §7.1. Certification of teachers; certification of principals and superintendents;  
12 certification of school psychologists

13 A. In carrying out its responsibility to prescribe the qualifications and  
14 provide for the certification of teachers under authority of R.S. 17:7(6), the  
15 qualifications and requirements established by the State Board of Elementary and  
16 Secondary Education for certification of any applicant for certification who  
17 completes an approved teacher education program in Louisiana shall include but not  
18 be limited to the following:

19 \* \* \*

1            ~~(4)(a) For applicants who have participated in any undergraduate teacher~~  
 2            ~~education program, that the~~ The applicant shall meet at least one of the following  
 3            requirements:

4            ~~(a) complete~~ Complete the prescribed number of semester hours in the  
 5            teaching of reading as established in policy by the State Board of Elementary and  
 6            Secondary Education in accordance with the level of certification to be awarded. ~~;~~  
 7            ~~such~~ This requirement to be is in addition to requirements for English courses, and  
 8            ~~such~~ the courses in the teaching of reading shall emphasize techniques of teaching  
 9            reading and the recognition and correction of reading problems of the student. For  
 10           certification at the secondary level, not more than three semester hours in the  
 11           teaching of reading shall be considered for purposes of meeting certification  
 12           requirements.

13           ~~(b) For applicants who have participated in any alternate teacher education~~  
 14           ~~program as provided pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the State Board of~~  
 15           ~~Elementary and Secondary Education, that the applicant shall be given the option of~~  
 16           ~~either completing the same amount of semester hours as required for the teaching of~~  
 17           ~~reading for undergraduate program applicants pursuant to this Paragraph or, in lieu~~  
 18           ~~of such semester hour requirements, shall possess~~ Possess the reading and literacy  
 19           competencies identified in scientifically based reading research at the national level  
 20           and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for the  
 21           teaching of reading.

\* \* \*

23           §3886. Teaching credentials; regular certification, permanent certification; effect of  
 24           evaluation

\* \* \*

26           B.(1)(a) ~~Persons~~ A teacher who ~~seek~~ seeks a regular teacher certificate and  
 27           ~~hold~~ holds a teacher certificate from out of state or for teaching at a nonpublic school  
 28           in Louisiana and ~~have out-of-state teaching experience of three years or more shall~~  
 29           ~~not~~ may be credited with ~~their~~ his years of teaching experience in the issuance of any

1           teaching credential ~~until receipt of~~ only if he has at least three years of either out-of-  
2           state teaching experience or in-state nonpublic school teaching experience and  
3           receives a successful evaluation as provided by board policy.

4                   (b) A teacher providing instruction in a public school but not employed by  
5           the public school governing authority may be credited with his years of teaching  
6           experience in the issuing of a teaching credential only if he is performing services  
7           for the school pursuant to a corporate contract with a company approved by the  
8           board to provide such services and he receives a successful evaluation as provided  
9           by board policy.

10                   (2) The board shall prescribe the process for the evaluations required by this  
11           Subsection in rules adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

12           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
13           signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
14           by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
15           vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
16           effective on the day following such approval.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 191 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Jefferson

**Abstract:** Provides relative to requirements for teacher certification.

Present law provides generally for the powers and duties of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), including teacher certification.

Present law provides requirements that certification applicants must meet in their teacher preparation programs, one of which pertains to the teaching of reading, as follows:

- (1) Applicants who participate in a traditional undergraduate teacher preparation program must complete the prescribed number of semester hours in the teaching of reading as established in BESE policy in accordance with the level of certification to be awarded.
- (2) Applicants who participate in alternate teacher preparation programs have the option of either completing the same number of semester hours required for those in undergraduate programs or possessing the reading and literacy competencies identified in scientifically based reading research at the national level and approved

by BESE for the teaching of reading. Proposed law also grants this option to those from traditional undergraduate teacher preparation programs.

Present law provides for the crediting of certain teaching experience with respect to the certification process. Provides that someone seeking a regular teacher certificate who holds an out-of-state certificate and has at least three years of out-of-state teaching experience shall not be credited with that experience in the issuance of any teaching credential until receipt of a successful evaluation according to BESE policy. Proposed law provides that these teachers as well as those who hold a certificate for teaching at a La. nonpublic school may be credited with their experience only if they have at least three years of experience and receive a successful evaluation according to BESE policy.

Proposed law adds that a teacher providing instruction in a public school but not employed by the public school governing authority may be credited with his years of teaching experience only if he is performing services for the school pursuant to a corporate contract with a company approved BESE to provide such services and he receives a successful evaluation according to BESE policy.

Proposed law further requires BESE to prescribe, by rule, the process for the evaluations required by such present law and proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:7.1(A)(4) and 3886(B))