

SENATE BILL 635

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5lr2664
CF HB 790

By: **Washington County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: April 3, 2015

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Washington County~~ **State Board of Education and the Professional Standards**
3 **and Teacher Education Board** – Alternative Teacher Certification Program

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

21 ~~BY adding to~~
22 ~~Article~~ ~~Education~~
23 ~~Section 6-122~~
24 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~(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~~

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

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

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

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

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

18 (i) By the State Superintendent of Schools; and

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

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

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

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

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

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
34 1, 2015.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.