

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 668

Introduced by Vargas, 7; Walz, 15.

Read first time January 23, 2019

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to teachers; to adopt the Alternative
- 2 Certification for Quality Teachers Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 4 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Alternative Certification for Quality Teachers Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

4 (1) Like many other states, Nebraska is facing a teacher and
5 substitute teacher shortage;

6 (2) Mandatory training days and family leave policies draw many
7 regular teachers out of their classrooms, causing schools to hire
8 substitute teachers;

9 (3) The Internal Revenue Service requires a separation period for
10 recently retired teachers who may otherwise be interested in returning to
11 the classroom as a substitute teacher;

12 (4) In the fall of 2016, the State Department of Education conducted
13 a teacher vacancy survey of all school districts, educational service
14 units, and nonpublic school systems;

15 (5) Such survey showed that the state continues to have hundreds of
16 unfilled teaching positions across the state;

17 (6) The most widely reported solutions for filling teaching
18 vacancies were to hire an individual who holds a transitional,
19 provisional, or temporary teaching certificate; and

20 (7) Filling teaching vacancies and having an adequate number of
21 substitute teachers is imperative for delivering a high quality learning
22 experience to students.

23 Sec. 3. (1) In addition to certificates issued pursuant to sections
24 79-806 to 79-815, a certificate to teach in the public schools shall be
25 granted by the State Board of Education to any person in good standing
26 who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state and who
27 annually completes the requirements to maintain certification pursuant to
28 rules and regulations of the board.

29 (2) Issuance of a certificate to teach in the public schools
30 pursuant to this section shall be subject to a criminal history record
31 information check pursuant to section 79-814.01 and any rules and

1 regulations adopted and promulgated by the board to carry out this
2 section.

3 Sec. 4. (1) In addition to certificates issued pursuant to sections
4 79-806 to 79-815, a temporary certificate to teach in the public schools
5 may be granted by the State Board of Education to any person who has:

6 (a) Presented to the board a valid bachelor's degree, or higher,
7 from an accredited degree-awarding college or university;

8 (b) Passed the basic skills examination and appropriate subject area
9 examination as designated by the board; and

10 (c) Enrolled in an alternative teacher certification program
11 approved by the board.

12 (2) Any temporary certificate to teach in the public schools issued
13 pursuant to this section shall be valid for a period not to exceed two
14 years, during which the holder of such temporary certificate must obtain
15 a valid certificate to teach in the public schools through an alternative
16 teacher certification program approved by the board.

17 (3) Issuance of a temporary certificate to teach in the public
18 schools pursuant to this section shall be subject to a criminal history
19 record information check pursuant to section 79-814.01 and any rules and
20 regulations adopted and promulgated by the board to carry out this
21 section.