

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4525

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 9, 2023

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4525 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill permits teacher candidates who meet all criteria for a certificate of eligibility (CE) or a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS), other than the requirement to meet certain minimum testing thresholds in either Praxis Core or Praxis II Subject Tests, to receive an alternative certificate of eligibility or alternative certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, as applicable. Upon completion of four years of continuous employment using an alternative certificate or an alternative certificate with advanced standing, the teacher is eligible to receive a standard certificate, provided that the teacher meets all applicable requirements for the standard certificate. The holder of an alternative certificate is able to use time employed using the certificate towards tenure requirements.

This amended bill directs the State Board of Education to authorize the issuance of an alternative certificate of eligibility with advanced standing to a teacher candidate who meets all other eligibility requirements for a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, except for the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge and all other alternative requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score on an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

Under the amended bill, the holder of an alternative certificate of eligibility with advanced standing is eligible to receive a standard certificate from the State Board of Education upon completion of four years of continuous employment as a teacher in a public school or an approved private school for students with disabilities.

The amended bill also directs the State Board of Education to authorize the issuance of an alternative certificate of eligibility to a teacher candidate who meets all other eligibility requirements to receive a certificate of eligibility, except for the requirement to achieve a minimum score on a Commissioner of Education-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills and all other alternative basic skills requirements or exceptions; or the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an appropriate State test of subject matter

knowledge and all other alternative requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score on an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

Under the amended bill, the holder of an alternative certificate of eligibility is eligible to receive a standard certificate from the State Board of Education upon completion of four years of continuous employment as a teacher in a public school or an approved private school for students with disabilities.

The amended bill further provides that a teaching staff member who receives an alternative certificate pursuant to the bill's provisions is able to apply employment accrued while using the alternative certificate towards tenure eligibility in the same manner as a teaching staff member who holds a standard teaching certificate. The bill prohibits the imposition of additional qualifications towards the acquisition of tenure on holders of alternative certificates.

Under current State Board of Education regulations, a candidate applying to become a teacher may be issued a CEAS under the traditional route to teacher certification or a CE under the alternate route to teacher certification. The CEAS and CE, issued by the State Board of Examiners, authorize an individual to seek and accept employment as a teacher in New Jersey public schools.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1533 (2R), also reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- provide that the holder of an alternative certificate is eligible to receive a standard certificate upon completion of four years of continuous employment as a teacher in a school district, charter school, renaissance school project, or an approved private school for students with disabilities; and
- require the State Board of Education to adopt rules and regulations, within 30 days after the effective date of the bill, notwithstanding the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act" to the contrary.