

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2826**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED AUGUST 17, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

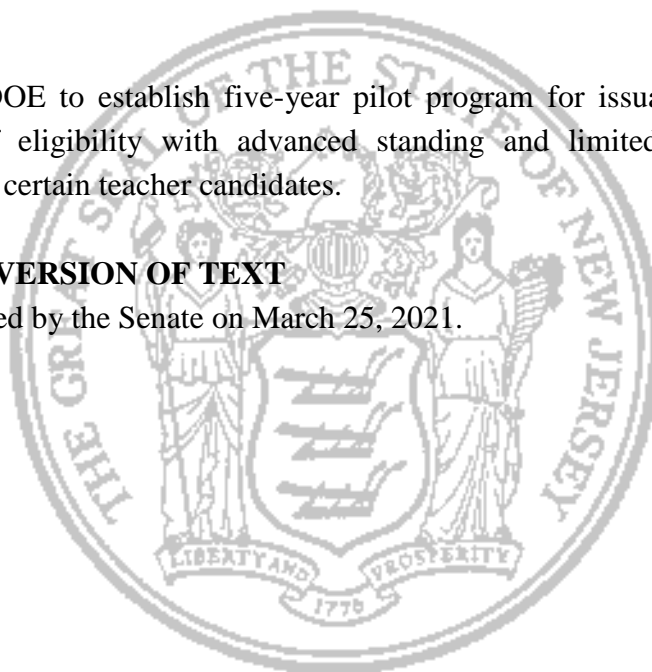
**Senator Pou, Assemblyman Johnson and Assemblywoman Jasey**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs DOE to establish five-year pilot program for issuance of limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing and limited certificate of eligibility for certain teacher candidates.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the Senate on March 25, 2021.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification and supplementing chapter  
2 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Limited certificate of eligibility” means a certificate issued by the  
9 State Board of Examiners to candidates who meet the criteria  
10 established pursuant to section <sup>1</sup>~~3~~ 4<sup>1</sup> of this act.

11 “Limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing” means a  
12 certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners to candidates who  
13 meet the criteria established pursuant to section <sup>1</sup>~~2~~ 3<sup>1</sup> of this act and  
14 complete a State-approved college professional educator preparation  
15 program.

16

17 <sup>1</sup>2. There is established in the Department of Education a five-  
18 year pilot program under which the State Board of Education shall  
19 authorize the issuance of a limited certificate of eligibility with  
20 advanced standing pursuant to section 3 of this act and a limited  
21 certificate of eligibility pursuant to section 4 of this act.<sup>1</sup>

22

23 <sup>1</sup>~~2~~ 3<sup>1</sup>. a. <sup>1</sup>~~No~~ For the purposes of the pilot program  
24 established pursuant to section 2 of this act, no<sup>1</sup> later than <sup>1</sup>~~six~~  
25 three<sup>1</sup> months following the date of enactment, the State Board of  
26 Education shall authorize the issuance of a limited certificate of  
27 eligibility with advanced standing to a teacher candidate who meets all  
28 other eligibility requirements for a certificate of eligibility with  
29 advanced standing, except any one of the following:

30 (1) the minimum grade point average requirement and all other  
31 alternative grade point average requirements or exceptions; or

32 (2) the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an  
33 appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge and all other  
34 alternative requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score on  
35 an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

36 b. The limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing  
37 authorized pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall only be used  
38 for employment in a school district, charter school, or renaissance  
39 school approved to hire individuals who hold the certificate pursuant  
40 to section <sup>1</sup>~~4~~ 5<sup>1</sup> of this act.

41

42 <sup>1</sup>~~3~~ 4<sup>1</sup>. a. <sup>1</sup>~~No~~ For the purposes of the pilot program  
43 established pursuant to section 2 of this act, no<sup>1</sup> later than <sup>1</sup>~~six~~  
44 three<sup>1</sup> months following the date of enactment, the State Board of  
45 Education shall authorize the issuance of a limited certificate of

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted March 25, 2021.

1 eligibility to a teacher candidate who meets all other eligibility  
2 requirements to receive a certificate of eligibility, except any one of  
3 the following:

4 (1) the requirement to complete a minimum number of subject area  
5 course credits and all other related alternative requirements or  
6 exceptions, except that a candidate applying for a limited certificate of  
7 eligibility shall hold a bachelor's degree at a minimum;

8 (2) the minimum grade point average requirement and all other  
9 alternative grade point average requirements or exceptions;

10 (3) the requirement to achieve a minimum score on a  
11 Commissioner of Education-approved test of basic reading, writing,  
12 and mathematical skills and all other alternative basic skills  
13 requirements or exceptions; or

14 (4) the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an  
15 appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge and all other  
16 alternative requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score on  
17 an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

18 b. The limited certificate of eligibility authorized pursuant to  
19 subsection a. of this section shall only be used for employment in a  
20 school district, charter school, or renaissance school approved to hire  
21 individuals who hold the certificate pursuant to section <sup>1</sup>[4] 5<sup>1</sup> of this  
22 act.

23

24 <sup>1</sup>[4] 5<sup>1</sup>. a. A school district, charter school, or renaissance  
25 school seeking to hire individuals who are issued limited certificates of  
26 eligibility with advanced standing or limited certificates of eligibility  
27 <sup>1</sup>under the pilot program established pursuant to section 2 of this act<sup>1</sup>  
28 shall be approved by the Commissioner of Education to do so. A  
29 school district, charter school, or renaissance school shall apply to the  
30 commissioner in a manner and form to be prescribed by the  
31 commissioner. To be considered for approval to hire individuals who  
32 hold limited certificates of eligibility with advanced standing or  
33 limited certificates of eligibility, an applicant shall demonstrate a  
34 sufficient capability to provide support to new teachers and:

35 (1) a demographic disparity between the district's or school's  
36 student population and teachers; or

37 (2) a shortage of bilingual education teachers; or

38 (3) a critical need to fill teacher vacancies or a hardship caused by  
39 teacher vacancies.

40 b. During the first year of implementation of <sup>1</sup>the pilot program  
41 established pursuant to section 2 of<sup>1</sup> this act, the commissioner shall  
42 approve no less than 10 school districts, charter schools, or renaissance  
43 schools to hire individuals who hold limited certificates of eligibility  
44 with advanced standing or limited certificates of eligibility.

45 c. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school  
46 approved to hire individuals who hold limited certificates of eligibility

1 with advanced standing or limited certificates of eligibility shall only  
2 hire up to 10 percent of its total teachers pursuant to this act.

3 d. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school  
4 approved to hire individuals who hold limited certificates of eligibility  
5 with advanced standing or limited certificates of eligibility shall <sup>1</sup>,  
6 during the period of the pilot program established pursuant to section 2  
7 of this act,<sup>1</sup> annually submit a report to the commissioner evaluating  
8 the impact of hiring such individuals. The report shall contain the  
9 following information:

10 (1) the number of teachers who were issued a limited certificate of  
11 eligibility with advanced standing or a limited certificate of eligibility;

12 (2) the subject areas in which the individuals teach and the courses  
13 they teach;

14 (3) how the hiring of individuals who were issued the limited  
15 certificates has impacted the district's or school's demographic  
16 disparity between its student population and teachers as well as the  
17 effect the hiring of those individuals has had on the district's or  
18 school's ability to fill teacher vacancies;

19 (4) student achievement data for students taught by the teachers  
20 who were issued the limited certificates, as determined by the  
21 commissioner; and

22 (5) any other information the commissioner deems necessary.

23 e. The commissioner shall <sup>1</sup>, during the period of the pilot  
24 program established pursuant to section 2 of this act,<sup>1</sup> annually submit  
25 to the State Board of Education a report summarizing the information  
26 submitted by school districts, charter schools, and renaissance schools  
27 pursuant to subsection d. of this section.

28

29 <sup>1</sup>~~[5]~~ 6<sup>1</sup>. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or  
30 regulation related to the evaluation of a provisional teacher for a  
31 standard instructional certificate to the contrary, an individual who is  
32 issued a limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing  
33 pursuant to section <sup>1</sup>~~[2]~~ 3<sup>1</sup> of this act or a limited certificate of  
34 eligibility pursuant to section <sup>1</sup>~~[3]~~ 4<sup>1</sup> of this act, is hired by a school  
35 district, charter school, or renaissance school approved to hire such an  
36 individual pursuant to section <sup>1</sup>~~[4]~~ 5<sup>1</sup> of this act, and is teaching in the  
37 district or school under a provisional instructional certificate, shall  
38 earn a standard instructional certificate <sup>1</sup>~~[after two evaluations in~~  
39 ~~which the individual scores effective or highly effective. The~~  
40 ~~individual shall earn the two evaluations of effective or highly~~  
41 ~~effective within four years of being issued a limited certificate of~~  
42 ~~eligibility with advanced standing or a limited certificate of eligibility]~~  
43 upon receipt of at least two summative evaluation ratings of effective  
44 or highly effective earned within three consecutive years of teaching<sup>1</sup>.

45 This requirement shall be in addition to all other requirements for a  
46 standard instructional certificate established pursuant to State Board of  
47 Education regulations.

1       <sup>1</sup>**[6.]** 7.<sup>1</sup> The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and  
2 regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”  
3 P.L. 1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the  
4 purposes of this act.

5

6       <sup>1</sup>**[7.]** 8.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.