

SENATE, No. 145

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Senator LYNCH

1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification and supplementing Chapter
2 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year all candidates for
8 teaching certification shall satisfactorily complete a course equivalent
9 to three semester hours in comprehensive school health education at
10 an accredited postsecondary institution.

11 b. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year any person seeking
12 certification through the alternate route shall, within one year of being
13 employed, satisfactorily complete a course equivalent to three
14 semester hours in comprehensive school health education at an
15 accredited postsecondary institution.

16 c. For the purposes of this act "Comprehensive school health
17 education course" means a course about health education that would
18 prepare a teaching staff member to instruct students in the areas of
19 maintaining, reinforcing, or enhancing their health, health-related
20 knowledge, skills and health attitudes and practices of children and
21 youth that are conducive to their good health and that promote
22 wellness, health maintenance, and disease prevention.

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24 2. All current teaching staff members shall be encouraged to pursue
25 continuing education courses in comprehensive school health
26 education. Any regulations promulgated by the Department of
27 Education concerning teacher re-certification or professional
28 development shall include a provision requiring the satisfactory
29 completion of a comprehensive school health education course.

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31 3. The Office of Professional Development and the Office of
32 Licensing and Academic Credentials of the Department of Education
33 shall work in conjunction to monitor and enforce this act.

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35 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill provides that beginning with the 1996-97 school year any candidate for teacher certification must complete a comprehensive school health education course at an accredited postsecondary institution prior to employment or within one year of being employed.

The bill provides that a comprehensive school health education course means a course about health education that maintains, reinforces, or enhances health-related knowledge, skills and attitudes and practices that promote wellness and health.

The bill also provides that all current teaching staff members be encouraged to pursue continuing education in comprehensive school health education. In addition, any regulations promulgated by the Department of Education concerning teacher re-certification or professional development must include a provision requiring the satisfactory completion of a comprehensive health education course.

These provisions would be monitored and enforced by the Office of Professional Development and the Office of Licensing and Academic Credentials.

Requires candidates for teacher certification to complete health education course.