

SENATE, No. 411

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 18, 1996

By Senator BRYANT

1 AN ACT concerning the certification of teachers and supplementing
2 chapter 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. The State Board of Education shall authorize a
8 bilingual/bicultural endorsement and an English as a second language
9 endorsement to the instructional certificate. The respective
10 endorsements shall entitle the holder to teach limited English proficient
11 students enrolled in bilingual/bicultural programs or English as a
12 second language classes in the language or languages in which the
13 holder was found proficient by the State.

14 b. The State board shall establish appropriate requirements for the
15 endorsements including the demonstration by the applicant, pursuant
16 to uniform State standards of language proficiency, oral and written
17 proficiency in English and, for applicants for the bilingual/bicultural
18 endorsement, in one other language also used as a medium of
19 instruction. The requirements for the bilingual/bicultural endorsement
20 shall include at least 15 credits of college coursework pertaining to the
21 special knowledge and skills necessary to teach students of limited
22 English proficiency in bilingual education programs in one of the
23 following areas: early childhood, elementary, content area, or special
24 education. A holder of a bilingual/bicultural endorsement shall not
25 teach in a subject area other than that in which the credit requirement
26 was fulfilled. The requirements for applicants for the English as a
27 second language endorsement shall include subject area knowledge,
28 study of at least one foreign language, and professional preparation
29 comparable to that required for kindergarten through 12th grade
30 content area endorsements.

31 c. As of the effective date of this act, the State board shall issue no
32 endorsement to the instructional certificate which authorizes a teacher
33 to teach classes for students of limited English-speaking ability
34 pursuant to P.L.1974, c.197 (C.18A:35-15 et seq.) other than that
35 authorized by subsection a. of this section.

36 d. Teachers who, as of the effective date of this act, possess any
37 permanent endorsement to the instructional certificate which entitles

1 them to teach in bilingual/bicultural programs or English as a second
2 language classes shall not be required to obtain the bilingual/bicultural
3 endorsement or English as a second language endorsement authorized
4 in subsection a. of this section in order to continue teaching these
5 programs.

6 e. Nothing in this act shall affect the tenure and seniority rights of
7 teachers who, as of the effective date of this act, possess any
8 permanent endorsement to the instructional certificate which entitles
9 them to teach in bilingual/bicultural programs or English as a second
10 language classes.

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12 2. The State Board of Education shall, within 120 days of the
13 effective date of this act, promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to
14 the "Administrative Procedures Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
15 seq.), necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

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17 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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22 This bill authorizes two endorsements to the instructional
23 certificate. The first entitles the holder to teach in bilingual/bicultural
24 programs and the second entitles the holder to teach English as a
25 second language classes.

26 The bill provides that an applicant for the bilingual/bicultural
27 endorsement must demonstrate foreign language and English language
28 proficiency pursuant to uniform State standards. An applicant for the
29 English as a second language endorsement must demonstrate oral and
30 written English language proficiency pursuant to uniform State
31 standards. Currently, the local school district is responsible for
32 ensuring foreign language proficiency and there are no provisions for
33 assessing oral language proficiency in English for either
34 bilingual/bicultural or English as a second language teachers.

35 Applicants for the English as a second language endorsement must
36 also possess subject area knowledge, complete coursework in a
37 foreign language and professional preparation comparable to that
38 required for any other endorsement to the instructional certificate.
39 Applicants for the bilingual/bicultural endorsement must obtain 15
40 credits of college level coursework pertaining to the special knowledge
41 and skills necessary to work with students of limited English
42 proficiency in the areas of early childhood, elementary, content area,
43 or special education. The teacher may not teach pupils in an area
44 other than that in which the credit requirement was fulfilled.

45 The bill provides, however, that current holders of a permanent
46 bilingual/bicultural or English as a second language endorsement will

1 not be required to satisfy the requirements established by the bill for
2 these endorsements in order to continue teaching these programs. The
3 bill also provides a hold harmless clause protecting teachers' tenure
4 and seniority rights.

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9 Provides for bilingual/bicultural endorsement and English as a second
10 language endorsement to the instructional certificate and requires
11 State to test language proficiency of applicants.