

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

H

2

HOUSE BILL 881
Second Edition Engrossed 5/4/95

Short Title: Alternative Teacher Certification.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Wood; and Watson.

Referred to: Education.

April 12, 1995

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF TEACHER
3 CERTIFICATION.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. G.S. 115C-296 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 115C-296. Board sets certification requirements.**

7 (a) The State Board of Education shall have entire control of certifying all
8 applicants for teaching positions in all public elementary and high schools of North
9 Carolina; and it shall prescribe the rules and regulations for the renewal and extension
10 of all certificates and shall determine and fix the salary for each grade and type of
11 certificate which it authorizes: Provided, that the State Board of Education shall require
12 each applicant for an initial certificate or graduate certificate to demonstrate his
13 academic and professional preparation by achieving a prescribed minimum score at
14 least equivalent to that required by the Board on November 30, 1972, on a standard
15 examination appropriate and adequate for that purpose: Provided, further, that in the
16 event the Board shall specify the National Teachers Examination for this purpose, the
17 required minimum score shall not be lower than that which the Board required on
18 November 30, 1972: Provided, further, that the State Board of Education shall not
19 decrease the certification standards for physical education teachers or health education
20 teachers below the standards in effect on June 1, 1988.

21 (b) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to maintain the highest quality
22 teacher education programs and school administrator programs in order to enhance the
23 competence of professional personnel certified in North Carolina. To the end that

1 teacher preparation programs are upgraded to reflect a more rigorous course of study,
2 the State Board of Education shall submit to the General Assembly not later than
3 November 1, 1994, a plan to promote this policy. The State Board of Education, as lead
4 agency in coordination and cooperation with the University Board of Governors, the
5 Board of Community Colleges and such other public and private agencies as are
6 necessary, shall continue to refine the several certification requirements, standards for
7 approval of institutions of teacher education, standards for institution-based innovative
8 and experimental programs, standards for implementing consortium-based teacher
9 education, and standards for improved efficiencies in the administration of the approved
10 programs. The standards for approval of institutions of teacher education shall require
11 that teacher education programs for students who do not major in special education
12 include courses in the identification and education of children with learning disabilities.
13 The State Board of Education shall incorporate the criteria developed in accordance
14 with G.S. 116-74.21 for assessing proposals under the School Administrator Training
15 Program into its school administrator program approval standards.

16 (c) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to encourage lateral entry into
17 the profession of teaching by skilled individuals from the private sector. To this end,
18 ~~before the 1985-86 school year begins,~~ the State Board of Education shall develop criteria
19 and procedures for two programs to accomplish the employment of such individuals as
20 classroom teachers. Regardless of credentials or competence, no one shall begin
21 teaching above the middle level of differentiation. ~~Skilled~~

22 Under the first program, skilled individuals who choose to enter the profession of
23 teaching laterally may be granted a provisional teaching certificate for no more than five
24 years and shall be required to obtain certification before contracting for a sixth year of
25 service with any local administrative unit in this State.

26 Under the second program, skilled individuals who choose to enter the profession of
27 teaching laterally and who satisfactorily complete the National Teachers Examination to
28 determine if the individuals possess the basic skills in reading, writing, and
29 mathematics, that are necessary to teach, may be granted a provisional teaching
30 certificate for no more than one year. During that year the person is required to serve an
31 internship. To qualify for an internship for certification to teach in kindergarten through
32 fifth grade, an individual shall have a bachelors degree in liberal arts, English, history,
33 mathematics, life science, earth science, child psychology, or a foreign language, from
34 an institution accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities. To
35 qualify for an internship for certification to teach in grades six through twelve, an
36 individual shall have a bachelors degree in the subject area for which the certification is
37 sought from an institution accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and
38 Universities. At the end of the one-year internship, the Board shall grant certification to
39 the individual if the individual demonstrates to the Board the academic knowledge and
40 the ability to communicate information effectively to students, if the students taught
41 during the one-year internship have attained an appropriate level of academic
42 achievement, and if the individual meets the other requirements established by the State
43 Board. Before the first occasion on which a local board of education may employ as a
44 teacher an individual certified under this second program, the board must first hold a

1 public hearing to explain this method of certification and to receive input from the
2 community."

3 (c1) It is further the policy of the State of North Carolina to ensure that local
4 boards of education can provide the strongest possible leadership for schools based
5 upon the identified and changing needs of individual schools. To this end, before the
6 1994-95 school year begins, the State Board of Education shall carefully consider a
7 lateral entry program for school administrators to ensure that local boards of education
8 will have sufficient flexibility to attract able candidates."

9 Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification.