

HB308 ENROLLED



1 HB308
2 WIGT599-3
3 By Representatives Collins, DuBose
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 07-Mar-24



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

2 Relating to alternative teacher certification; to
3 amend Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended
4 by Act 2023-451, 2023 Regular Session; to provide that an
5 additional method by which certain alternative teacher
6 examination preparation programs may be approved by the State
7 Board of Education; and to make nonsubstantive, technical
8 revisions to update the existing code language to current
9 style.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

11 Section 1. Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, as
12 last amended by Act 2023-451, 2023 Regular Session, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 "§16-23-3.1

15 (a) The State of Alabama shall modify its policies
16 relative to the certification of teachers to permit the
17 issuance of a professional educator certificate to those
18 qualified individuals who successfully complete an approved
19 alternative teacher preparation program. In addition to any
20 provisional certificates and professional certificates issued
21 pursuant to this chapter to individuals graduating from
22 approved teacher education programs, the State Board of
23 Education shall authorize the issuance of a professional
24 educator certificate by the State Superintendent of Education
25 to a qualified individual who completes an approved
26 alternative teacher preparation program.

27 (b) The State Superintendent of Education shall
28 maintain a database of alternative teacher education



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29 preparation organizations, approved by the State Board of
30 Education, as a means for screening, recruiting, and
31 recommending for certification qualified individuals to teach
32 in the public K-12 schools. An approved alternative teacher
33 education preparation organization, at a minimum, shall
34 require each applicant whom the approved organization
35 recommends for initial licensure to satisfy all of the
36 following:

37 (1) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited
38 institution of higher education which offers, at a minimum,
39 junior and senior level courses of instruction.

40 (2) Successfully pass a criminal history background
41 information check.

42 (3) Successfully complete an alternative teacher
43 preparation program offered by the approved organization.

44 (c) (1) Any provision of law to the contrary
45 notwithstanding, in determining which alternative teacher
46 education preparation organizations to approve, the State
47 Board of Education shall consider only the following
48 prerequisites:

49 a. Successful operation in at least five states and is
50 not on probation in any of those states. This requirement does
51 not apply to two-year or four-year institutions of higher
52 education operating in the state with state-approved programs.

53 b. Successful operation of an alternative teacher
54 education preparation program for at least 10 years.

55 c. Requirement that an applicant pass an examination
56 that is substantively aligned with Alabama standards in



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57 subject area, pedagogy, or both.

58 d. Evidence of successfully certifying at least 10,000
59 teachers in the United States. This requirement does not apply
60 to two-year or four-year institutions of higher education
61 operating in the state with state-approved programs.

62 (2) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, if ~~if~~ an
63 alternative teacher education preparation organization does
64 not satisfy the prerequisites provided in ~~paragraphs (1)a.~~
65 ~~through (1)d.~~ subdivision (1), the alternative teacher
66 education preparation organization may be approved if the
67 organization is certified by the Council for the Accreditation
68 of ~~Education~~ Educator Preparation or the Association for
69 Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation. In order to qualify
70 for approval under this section, an alternative teacher
71 certification program organization certified by the
72 Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation must
73 have begun an application with the Council for the
74 Accreditation of Educator Preparation by April 1, 2024.
75 Beginning October 1, 2026, certification by the Association
76 for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation shall no longer
77 qualify an alternative teacher education preparation
78 organization for approval under this section.

79 (d) An individual who is granted a professional
80 educator certificate pursuant to this section may teach in the
81 subject areas and at the educational levels he or she has
82 successfully completed through the alternative teacher
83 preparation program offered by the approved alternative
84 teacher education preparation organization.



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85 (e) An individual who holds a professional educator
86 certificate pursuant to this section may apply for a
87 professional renewal license and shall in all other respects
88 be treated in the same manner as an individual who holds a
89 professional educator certificate granted upon successful
90 completion of traditional, in-state teaching certification
91 programs.

92 (f) An approved alternative teacher education
93 preparation organization shall submit a detailed report to the
94 State Board of Education annually detailing the number of
95 individuals who completed the program during that year.

96 (g) Upon receiving an alternative certificate to teach
97 pursuant to this section, the teacher shall participate in the
98 Alabama Teacher Mentorship Program if hired by a local board
99 of education that participates in the program."

100 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
101 1, 2024.

