

**House Education Policy Reported Substitute for
HB342**



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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to alternative teacher preparation programs and teacher certification; to amend Section 2 of Act 2022-239, 2022 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide additional requirements for programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 2 of Act 2022-239, 2022 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§16-23-3.1

(a) The State of Alabama shall modify its policies relative to the certification of teachers to permit the issuance of a professional educator certificate to those qualified individuals who successfully complete an approved alternative teacher preparation program. In addition to any provisional certificates and professional certificates issued pursuant to this chapter to individuals graduating from approved teacher education programs, the State Board of Education shall authorize the issuance of a professional educator certificate by the State Superintendent of Education



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29 to a qualified individual who completes an approved
30 alternative teacher preparation program.

31 (b) The State Superintendent of Education shall
32 maintain a database of alternative teacher education
33 preparation organizations, approved by the State Board of
34 Education, as a means for screening, recruiting, and
35 recommending for certification qualified individuals to teach
36 in the public K-12 schools. An approved alternative teacher
37 education preparation organization, ~~at a minimum,~~ shall
38 require each applicant whom the approved organization
39 recommends for initial licensure to satisfy all of the
40 following:

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

44 (2) Successfully pass a criminal history background
45 information check.

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

48 (c) ~~In~~ Any provision of law to the contrary
49 notwithstanding, in determining which alternative teacher
50 education preparation organizations to approve, the State
51 Board of Education, ~~may shall~~ consider ~~prerequisites~~
52 ~~including, but not limited to,~~ only the following
53 prerequisites:

54 (1) Successful operation in at least five states **and**
55 **shall not be on probation in any of those states. This**
56 **requirement does not apply to two-year or four-year**



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57 institutions of higher education operating in the state with
58 state-approved programs.

59 (2) Successful operation of an alternative teacher
60 education preparation program for at least 10 years.

61 (3) Requirement that an applicant pass a subject area
62 examination, professional teaching examination, or both an
63 examination that is substantively aligned with Alabama
64 standards in subject area, pedagogy, or both.

65 (4) Evidence of successfully certifying at least 10,000
66 teachers in the United States. This requirement does not apply
67 to two-year or four-year institutions of higher education
68 operating in the state with state-approved programs.

69 (5) If an alternative teacher education preparation
70 organization does not satisfy the prerequisites provided in
71 subdivisions (1) through (4), the alternative teacher
72 education preparation organization may be approved if
73 certified by the Council for the Accreditation of Education
74 Preparation.

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

81 (e) An individual who holds a professional educator
82 certificate pursuant to this section may apply for a
83 professional renewal license and shall in all other respects
84 be treated in the same manner as an individual who holds a



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85 professional educator certificate granted upon successful
86 completion of traditional, in-state teaching certification
87 programs.

88 (f) An approved alternative teacher education
89 preparation organization shall submit a detailed report to the
90 State Board of Education annually detailing the number of
91 individuals who were enrolled in the program and the number of
92 individuals who completed the program during that year."

93 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first
94 day of the third month following its passage and approval by
95 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.