HB308

VEI5LPP-1

By Representatives Collins, DuBose

RFD: Education Policy

First Read: 07-Mar-24

SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, an alternative teacher education preparation organization that does not meet certain criteria may be approved by the State Board of Education if it is certified by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

This bill would provide that an alternative teacher education preparation organization may also be approved if it is accredited by a member of the Council for Higher Education which specializes in educator preparation.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to alternative teacher certification; to amend Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended by Act 2023-451, 2023 Regular Session; to provide that an additional method by which certain alternative teacher examination preparation programs may be approved by the State

Board of Education; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 16-23-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended by Act 2023-451, 2023 Regular Session, 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 to a qualified individual who completes an approved alternative teacher preparation program.

(b) The State Superintendent of Education shall maintain a database of alternative teacher education preparation organizations, approved by the State Board of Education, as a means for screening, recruiting, and recommending for certification qualified individuals to teach in the public K-12 schools. An approved alternative teacher education preparation organization, at a minimum, shall require each applicant whom the approved organization

recommends for initial licensure to satisfy all of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

c. Requirement that an applicant pass an examination that is substantively aligned with Alabama standards in subject area, pedagogy, or both.

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

(2) If an alternative teacher education preparation

organization does not satisfy the prerequisites provided in ~~paragraphs (1)a. through (1)d.~~ subdivision (1), the alternative teacher education preparation organization may be approved if the organization is: (i) certified by the Council for the Accreditation of ~~Education~~ Educator Preparation; or (ii) accredited by a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation which specializes in educator preparation.

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

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

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

(g) Upon receiving an alternative certificate to teach pursuant to this section, the teacher shall participate in the Alabama Teacher Mentorship Program if hired by a local board

of education that participates in the program."

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