

104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2025 and 2026 SB0097

Introduced 1/17/2025, by Sen. Sally J. Turner

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-20 105 ILCS 5/21B-40

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. In provisions concerning Substitute Teaching Licenses, requires an applicant who is enrolled in an approved educator preparation program to have either earned at least 75 credit hours or completed 3 semesters in an educator preparation program (rather than requiring the applicant to have earned at least 90 credit hours). Provides that a school district may not require an individual who retired within the last 5 years while holding a valid Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher if substitute teaching for no more than one year. Provides that a retired educator may not be charged an application fee for a Substitute Teaching License if certain conditions are met.

LRB104 04026 LNS 14050 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

- 4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Sections
- 5 21B-20 and 21B-40 as follows:
- 6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-20)
- 7 Sec. 21B-20. Types of licenses. The State Board of
- 8 Education shall implement a system of educator licensure,
- 9 whereby individuals employed in school districts who are
- 10 required to be licensed must have one of the following
- 11 licenses: (i) a professional educator license; (ii) an
- 12 educator license with stipulations; (iii) a substitute
- 13 teaching license; or (iv) until June 30, 2028, a short-term
- 14 substitute teaching license. References in law regarding
- 15 individuals certified or certificated or required to be
- 16 certified or certificated under Article 21 of this Code shall
- 17 also include individuals licensed or required to be licensed
- under this Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June
- 19 30 following one full year of the license being issued.
- The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
- 21 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such
- 22 rules as may be necessary to govern the requirements for
- 23 licenses and endorsements under this Section.

(1) Professional Educator License. Persons who (i) 1 2 have successfully completed an approved educator 3 preparation program and are recommended for licensure by the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation program, (ii) have successfully completed the required testing under Section 21B-30 of this Code, (iii) have 6 7 successfully completed coursework on the psychology of, the identification of, and the methods of instruction for 8 9 the exceptional child, including, without limitation, 10 children with learning disabilities, (iv)11 successfully completed coursework in methods of reading 12 and reading in the content area, and (v) have met all other criteria established by rule of the State Board of 13 14 Education shall be issued a Professional Educator License. 15 All Professional Educator Licenses are valid until June 30 16 immediately following 5 years of the license being issued. 17 The Professional Educator License shall be endorsed with specific areas and grade levels in which the individual is 18 19 eligible to practice. For an early childhood education 20 endorsement, an individual may satisfy the student 21 teaching requirement of his or her early childhood teacher 22 preparation program through placement in a setting with 23 children from birth through grade 2, and the individual may be paid and receive credit while student teaching. The 24 25 student teaching experience must meet the requirements of 26 be approved by the individual's early childhood

1 teacher preparation program.

Individuals can receive subsequent endorsements on the Professional Educator License. Subsequent endorsements shall require a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework in the endorsement area and passage of the applicable content area test, unless otherwise specified by rule.

(2) Educator License with Stipulations. An Educator License with Stipulations shall be issued an endorsement that limits the license holder to one particular position or does not require completion of an approved educator program or both.

An individual with an Educator License with Stipulations must not be employed by a school district or any other entity to replace any presently employed teacher who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason.

An Educator License with Stipulations may be issued with the following endorsements:

- (A) (Blank).
- (B) Alternative provisional educator. An alternative provisional educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who, at the time of applying for the endorsement, has done all of the following:
 - (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum of a bachelor's degree.

1	(ii) Successfully completed the first phase of
2	the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for
3	Teachers, as described in Section 21B-50 of this
4	Code.
5	(iii) Passed a content area test, as required
6	under Section 21B-30 of this Code.
7	The alternative provisional educator endorsement is
8	valid for 2 years of teaching and may be renewed for a
9	third year by an individual meeting the requirements set
10	forth in Section 21B-50 of this Code.
11	(C) Alternative provisional superintendent. An
12	alternative provisional superintendent endorsement on
13	an Educator License with Stipulations entitles the
14	holder to serve only as a superintendent or assistant
15	superintendent in a school district's central office.
16	This endorsement may only be issued to an applicant
17	who, at the time of applying for the endorsement, has
18	done all of the following:
19	(i) Graduated from a regionally accredited
20	college or university with a minimum of a master's
21	degree in a management field other than education.
22	(ii) Been employed for a period of at least 5
23	years in a management level position in a field
24	other than education.
25	(iii) Successfully completed the first phase
26	of an alternative route to superintendent

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endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55 1 2 of this Code. 3 (iv) Passed a content area test required under Section 21B-30 of this Code. The endorsement is valid for 2 fiscal years in 6 order to complete one full year of serving as a 7 superintendent or assistant superintendent. 8 (D) (Blank). 9 (E) Career and technical educator. A career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License 10 11 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who 12 has a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework from a 13 regionally accredited institution of higher education or an accredited trade and technical institution and 14 has a minimum of 2,000 hours of experience outside of 15 16 education in each area to be taught. 17 The career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until 18 19 June 30 immediately following 5 years of 20 endorsement being issued and may be renewed. individual who holds a valid career 21 An and 22 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License

An individual who holds a valid career and

with Stipulations but does not hold a bachelor's

degree may substitute teach in career and technical

education classrooms.

technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and privileges granted to a holder of a Professional Educator License.

(F) (Blank).

- (G) Transitional bilingual educator. A transitional bilingual educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued for the purpose of providing instruction in accordance with Article 14C of this Code to an applicant who provides satisfactory evidence that he or she meets all of the following requirements:
 - (i) Possesses adequate speaking, reading, and writing ability in the language other than English in which transitional bilingual education is offered.
 - (ii) Has the ability to successfully communicate in English.
 - (iii) Either possessed, within 5 years previous to his or her applying for a transitional bilingual educator endorsement, a valid and comparable teaching certificate or comparable authorization issued by a foreign country or holds a degree from an institution of higher learning in a foreign country that the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be

the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning in the United States.

A transitional bilingual educator endorsement shall be valid for prekindergarten through grade 12, is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of the endorsement being issued, and shall not be renewed.

Persons holding a transitional bilingual educator endorsement shall not be employed to replace any presently employed teacher who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason.

- (H) Language endorsement. In an effort to alleviate the shortage of teachers speaking a language other than English in the public schools, an individual who holds an Educator License with Stipulations may also apply for a language endorsement, provided that the applicant provides satisfactory evidence that he or she meets all of the following requirements:
 - (i) Holds a transitional bilingual endorsement.
 - (ii) Has demonstrated proficiency in the language for which the endorsement is to be issued by passing the applicable language content test required by the State Board of Education.

(iii) Holds a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or, for individuals educated in a country other than the United States, holds a degree from an institution of higher learning in a foreign country that the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning in the United States.

(iv) (Blank).

A language endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for prekindergarten through grade 12 for the same validity period as the individual's transitional bilingual educator endorsement on the Educator License with Stipulations and shall not be renewed.

- (I) Visiting international educator. A visiting international educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an individual who is being recruited by a particular school district that conducts formal recruitment programs outside of the United States to secure the services of qualified teachers and who meets all of the following requirements:
 - (i) Holds the equivalent of a minimum of a

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1	bachelor's degree issued in the United States.
2	(ii) Has been prepared as a teacher at the
3	grade level for which he or she will be employed.
4	(iii) Has adequate content knowledge in the
5	subject to be taught.
6	(iv) Has an adequate command of the English
7	language.
8	A holder of a visiting international educator
9	endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations
10	shall be permitted to teach in bilingual education
11	programs in the language that was the medium of
12	instruction in his or her teacher preparation program,
13	provided that he or she passes the English Language
14	Proficiency Examination or another test of writing
15	skills in English identified by the State Board of
16	Education, in consultation with the State Educator
17	Preparation and Licensure Board.
18	A visiting international educator endorsement or
19	an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 5
20	years and shall not be renewed.
21	(J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional
22	educator endorsement on an Educator License with
23	Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who holds a

high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and

(i) holds an associate's degree or a minimum of 60

semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited

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institution of higher education; (ii) has passed a paraprofessional competency test under subsection (c-5) of Section 21B-30; or (iii) is at least 18 years of age and will be using the Educator License with Stipulations exclusively for grades prekindergarten through grade 8, until the individual reaches the age of 19 years and otherwise meets the criteria for a paraprofessional educator endorsement pursuant to this (J). The paraprofessional subparagraph educator endorsement is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed through application and payment of the appropriate fee, as required under Section 21B-40 of Code. An individual who holds paraprofessional educator endorsement is not subject to additional requirements in order to renew the endorsement.

(K) Chief school business official. A chief school business official endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2 years of full-time administrative experience in school business management or 2 years of university-approved practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the State Board of Education for the preparation of school

business administrators and by passage of the applicable State tests, including an applicable content area test.

The chief school business official endorsement may also be affixed to the Educator License with Stipulations of any holder who qualifies by having a master's degree in business administration, finance, accounting, or public administration and who completes an additional 6 semester hours of internship in school business management from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and passes the applicable State tests, including an applicable content area test. This endorsement shall be required for any individual employed as a chief school business official.

The chief school business official endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed if the license holder completes renewal requirements as required for individuals who hold a Professional Educator License endorsed for chief school business official under Section 21B-45 of this Code and such rules as may be adopted by the State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules

1 necessary to implement Public Act 100-288.

- (L) Provisional in-state educator. A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to a candidate who has completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois institution of higher education and who has not successfully completed an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness but who meets all of the following requirements:
 - (i) Holds at least a bachelor's degree.
 - (ii) Has completed an approved educator preparation program at an Illinois institution.
 - (iii) Has passed an applicable content area test, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.
 - (iv) Has attempted an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness and received a minimum score on that assessment, as established by the State Board of Education in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for one full fiscal year after the date of issuance and may not be renewed.

- (M) (Blank).
- (N) Specialized services. A specialized services

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endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued as defined and specified by rule.

(O) Provisional career and technical educator. A provisional career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who has a minimum of 8,000 hours of work experience in the skill for which the applicant is seeking the endorsement. Each employing school board and regional office of education shall provide verification, in writing, to the State Superintendent of Education at the time the application is submitted that no qualified teacher holding a Professional License Educator License Educator or an Stipulations with a career and technical educator endorsement is available to teach and that actual circumstances require such issuance.

A provisional career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed.

An individual who holds a provisional career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may teach as a substitute teacher in career and technical education classrooms.

An individual who holds a provisional career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License

with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and privileges granted to a holder of a Professional Educator License.

(3) Substitute Teaching License. A Substitute Teaching License may be issued to qualified applicants for substitute teaching in all grades of the public schools, prekindergarten through grade 12. Substitute Teaching Licenses are not eligible for endorsements. Applicants for a Substitute Teaching License must hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or must be enrolled in an approved educator preparation program in this State and have either earned at least 75 90 credit hours or completed 3 semesters in an educator preparation program.

Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for substitute teaching in every county of this State. If an individual has had his or her Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked, then that individual is not eligible to obtain a Substitute Teaching License.

A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under contract because of an emergency situation, then a district may employ a substitute teacher for no longer

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than 30 calendar days per each vacant position in the district if the district notifies the appropriate regional office of education within 5 business days after the employment of the substitute teacher in that vacant position. A district may continue to employ that same substitute teacher in that same vacant position for 90 calendar days or until the end of the semester, whichever greater, if, prior to the expiration is of 30-calendar-day period then current, the district files a written request with the appropriate regional office of education for a 30-calendar-day extension on the basis position remains vacant and the district that the actively seek qualified candidates continues to provides documentation that it has provided training specific to the position, including training on meeting needs of students with disabilities and English learners if applicable. Each extension request shall be granted in writing by the regional office of education. An emergency situation is one in which an unforeseen vacancy has occurred and (i) a teacher is unexpectedly unable to fulfill his or her contractual duties or (ii) teacher capacity needs of the district exceed previous indications or vacancies are unfilled due to a lack of qualified candidates, and the district is actively engaged in advertising to hire a fully licensed teacher for the vacant position.

There is no limit on the number of days that a substitute teacher may teach in a single school district, provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer than 120 days beginning with the 2021-2022 school year through the 2022-2023 school year, otherwise 90 school days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the same school year. A substitute teacher who holds a Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the same school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on the number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do not apply to any school district operating under Article 34 of this Code.

A school district may not require an individual who holds a valid Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher. A school district may not require an individual who retired within the last 5 years while holding a valid Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher if substitute teaching for no more than one year.

(4) Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Beginning on July 1, 2018 and until June 30, 2028, applicants may

apply to the State Board of Education for issuance of a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. A Short-Term Substitute Teaching License may be issued to a qualified applicant for substitute teaching in all grades of the public schools, prekindergarten through grade 12. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are not eligible for endorsements. Applicants for a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License must hold an associate's degree or have completed at least 60 credit hours from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for substitute teaching in every county of this State. If an individual has had his or her Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked, then that individual is not eligible to obtain a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License.

The provisions of Sections 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 of this Code apply to short-term substitute teachers.

An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License may teach no more than 15 consecutive days per licensed teacher who is under contract. For teacher absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who is under contract, a school district may not hire an individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License, unless the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the

- Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License must complete the training program under Section 10-20.67 or 34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible to teach at a public school. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses under this Section are valid for 5 years.
- 7 (Source: P.A. 102-711, eff. 1-1-23; 102-712, eff. 4-27-22;
- 8 102-713, eff. 1-1-23; 102-717, eff. 4-29-22; 102-894, eff.
- 9 5-20-22; 103-111, eff. 6-29-23; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23;
- 10 103-193, eff. 1-1-24; 103-564, eff. 11-17-23; 103-617, eff.
- 11 7-1-24.
- 12 (105 ILCS 5/21B-40)
- 13 Sec. 21B-40. Fees.
- 14 (a) Beginning with the start of the new licensure system 15 established pursuant to this Article, the following fees shall
- be charged to applicants:
- 17 (1) A \$100 application fee for a Professional Educator
 18 License or an Educator License with Stipulations.
- 19 (1.5) A \$50 application fee for a Substitute Teaching
 20 License. However, a retired educator may not be charged an
 21 application fee for a Substitute Teaching License if the
 22 applicant (i) retired while holding a valid Professional
 23 Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations,
 24 (ii) retired no more than 5 years before applying for the
 25 Substitute Teaching License, and (iii) received a

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performance rating of "excellent" or "proficient" under Article 24A on the last evaluation received before retirement. If the application for a Substitute Teaching License is made and granted after July 1, 2017, the licensee may apply for a refund of the application fee within 18 months of issuance of the new license and shall be issued that refund by the State Board of Education if the licensee provides evidence to the State Board of Education that the licensee has taught pursuant to the Substitute Teaching License at least 10 full school days within one year of issuance.

\$25 application fee for а (1.7) A Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. The Short-Term Substitute Teaching License must be registered in at least one region in this State, but does not require a registration fee. The licensee may apply for a refund of the application fee within 18 months of issuance of the new license and shall be issued that refund by the State Board of Education if the licensee provides evidence to the State Board of Education that the licensee has taught pursuant to the Short-Term Substitute Teaching License at least 10 full school days within one year of issuance. The application fee for a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License shall be waived when the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

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- (2) A \$150 application fee for individuals who have not been entitled by an Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois institution of higher education and are seeking any of the licenses set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection (a).
- (3) A \$50 application fee for each endorsement or approval.
- (4) A \$10 per year registration fee for the course of the validity cycle to register the license, which shall be paid to the regional office of education supervision and control over the school in which the individual holding the license is to be employed. If the individual holding the license is not yet employed, then the license may be registered in any county in this State. The registration fee must be paid in its entirety the first time the individual registers the license for a particular validity period in a single region. additional fee may be charged for that validity period should the individual subsequently register the license in additional regions. An individual must register the license (i) immediately after initial issuance of the license and (ii) at the beginning of each renewal cycle if individual has satisfied the renewal requirements required under this Code.

Beginning on July 1, 2017, at the beginning of each renewal cycle, individuals who hold a Substitute Teaching

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License may apply for a reimbursement of the registration fee within 18 months of renewal and shall be issued that reimbursement by the State Board of Education from funds appropriated for that purpose if the licensee provides evidence to the State Board of Education that the licensee has taught pursuant to the Substitute Teaching License at least 10 full school days within one year of renewal.

- (5) The license renewal fee for an Educator License with Stipulations with a paraprofessional educator endorsement is \$25.
- (b) All application fees paid pursuant to subdivisions (1) through (3) of subsection (a) of this Section shall be deposited into the Teacher Certificate Fee Revolving Fund and shall be used, subject to appropriation, by the State Board of Education to provide the technology and human resources necessary for the timely and efficient processing of applications and for the renewal of licenses. Funds available from the Teacher Certificate Fee Revolving Fund may also be used by the State Board of Education to support the recruitment and retention of educators, to support educator preparation programs as they seek national accreditation, and provide professional development aligned with requirements set forth in Section 21B-45 of this Code. A majority of the funds in the Teacher Certificate Fee Revolving Fund must be dedicated to the timely and efficient processing of applications and for the renewal of licenses. The Teacher

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- 1 Certificate Fee Revolving Fund is not subject 2 administrative charge transfers, authorized under Section 8h of the State Finance Act, from the Teacher Certificate Fee 3 Revolving Fund into any other fund of this State, and moneys in 5 the Teacher Certificate Fee Revolving Fund shall not revert 6 back to the General Revenue Fund at any time.
 - The regional superintendent of schools shall deposit the registration fees paid pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this Section into the institute fund established pursuant to Section 3-11 of this Code.
 - (c) The State Board of Education and each regional office of education are authorized to charge a service or convenience fee for the use of credit cards for the payment of license fees. This service or convenience fee shall not exceed the amount required by the credit card processing company or vendor that has entered into a contract with the State Board or regional office of education for this purpose, and the fee must be paid to that company or vendor.
 - (d) If, at the time a certificate issued under Article 21 of this Code is exchanged for a license issued under this Article, a person has paid registration fees for any years of the validity period of the certificate and these years have not expired when the certificate is exchanged, then those fees must be applied to the registration of the new license.
- 25 (Source: P.A. 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-570, eff. 8-23-19;
- 26 102-867, eff. 5-13-22.)