



Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel

**Filed: 4/15/2026**

10400SB2773sam001

LRB104 16580 LNS 36700 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2773

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 2773 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 21B-20 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

1 also include individuals licensed or required to be licensed  
2 under this Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June  
3 30 following one full year of the license being issued.

4 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
5 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
6 rules as may be necessary to govern the requirements for  
7 licenses and endorsements under this Section.

8 (1) Professional Educator License. Persons who (i)  
9 have successfully completed an approved educator  
10 preparation program and are recommended for licensure by  
11 the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation  
12 program, (ii) have successfully completed the required  
13 testing under Section 21B-30 of this Code, (iii) have  
14 successfully completed coursework on the psychology of,  
15 the identification of, and the methods of instruction for  
16 the exceptional child, including, without limitation,  
17 children with learning disabilities, (iv) have  
18 successfully completed coursework in methods of reading  
19 and reading in the content area, and (v) have met all other  
20 criteria established by rule of the State Board of  
21 Education shall be issued a Professional Educator License.  
22 Persons seeking a Professional Educator License with a  
23 school support personnel endorsement or chief school  
24 business official endorsement are exempt from the  
25 requirements in items (iii) and (iv). All Professional  
26 Educator Licenses are valid until June 30 immediately

1 following 5 years of the license being issued. The  
2 Professional Educator License shall be endorsed with  
3 specific areas and grade levels in which the individual is  
4 eligible to practice. For an early childhood education  
5 endorsement, an individual may satisfy the student  
6 teaching requirement of his or her early childhood teacher  
7 preparation program through placement in a setting with  
8 children from birth through grade 2, and the individual  
9 may be paid and receive credit while student teaching. The  
10 student teaching experience must meet the requirements of  
11 and be approved by the individual's early childhood  
12 teacher preparation program. No institution of higher  
13 education shall establish or maintain any policy which  
14 requires student teaching for preservice teachers to be  
15 unpaid.

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

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

26 An individual with an Educator License with

1 Stipulations must not be employed by a school district or  
2 any other entity to replace any presently employed teacher  
3 who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason.

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

6 (A) (Blank).

7 (B) Alternative provisional educator. An  
8 alternative provisional educator endorsement on an  
9 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
10 applicant who, at the time of applying for the  
11 endorsement, has done all of the following:

12 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
13 college or university with a minimum of a  
14 bachelor's degree.

15 (ii) Successfully completed the first phase of  
16 the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for  
17 Teachers, as described in Section 21B-50 of this  
18 Code.

19 (iii) Passed a content area test, as required  
20 under Section 21B-30 of this Code.

21 The alternative provisional educator endorsement is  
22 valid for 2 years of teaching and may be renewed for a  
23 third year by an individual meeting the requirements set  
24 forth in Section 21B-50 of this Code.

25 (C) Alternative provisional superintendent. An  
26 alternative provisional superintendent endorsement on

1 an Educator License with Stipulations entitles the  
2 holder to serve only as a superintendent or assistant  
3 superintendent in a school district's central office.  
4 This endorsement may only be issued to an applicant  
5 who, at the time of applying for the endorsement, has  
6 done all of the following:

7 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
8 college or university with a minimum of a master's  
9 degree in a management field other than education.

10 (ii) Been employed for a period of at least 5  
11 years in a management level position in a field  
12 other than education.

13 (iii) Successfully completed the first phase  
14 of an alternative route to superintendent  
15 endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55  
16 of this Code.

17 (iv) Passed a content area test required under  
18 Section 21B-30 of this Code.

19 The endorsement is valid for 2 fiscal years in  
20 order to complete one full year of serving as a  
21 superintendent or assistant superintendent.

22 (D) (Blank).

23 (E) Career and technical educator. A career and  
24 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
25 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
26 has a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework from a

1 regionally accredited institution of higher education  
2 or an accredited trade and technical institution and  
3 has a minimum of 2,000 hours of experience outside of  
4 education in each area to be taught.

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

9 An individual who holds a valid career and  
10 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
11 with Stipulations but does not hold a bachelor's  
12 degree may substitute teach in career and technical  
13 education classrooms.

14 An individual who holds a valid career and  
15 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
16 with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and  
17 privileges granted to a holder of a Professional  
18 Educator License.

19 (F) (Blank).

20 (G) Transitional bilingual educator. A  
21 transitional bilingual educator endorsement on an  
22 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued for  
23 the purpose of providing instruction in accordance  
24 with Article 14C of this Code to an applicant who  
25 provides satisfactory evidence that he or she meets  
26 all of the following requirements:

1           (i) Possesses adequate speaking, reading, and  
2 writing ability in the language other than English  
3 in which transitional bilingual education is  
4 offered.

5           (ii) Has the ability to successfully  
6 communicate in English.

7           (iii) Either possessed, within 5 years  
8 previous to his or her applying for a transitional  
9 bilingual educator endorsement, a valid and  
10 comparable teaching certificate or comparable  
11 authorization issued by a foreign country or holds  
12 a degree from an institution of higher learning in  
13 a foreign country that the State Educator  
14 Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be  
15 the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a  
16 regionally accredited institution of higher  
17 learning in the United States.

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

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

1           (H) Language endorsement. In an effort to  
2 alleviate the shortage of teachers speaking a language  
3 other than English in the public schools, an  
4 individual who holds an Educator License with  
5 Stipulations may also apply for a language  
6 endorsement, provided that the applicant provides  
7 satisfactory evidence that he or she meets all of the  
8 following requirements:

9           (i) Holds a transitional bilingual  
10 endorsement.

11           (ii) Has demonstrated proficiency in the  
12 language for which the endorsement is to be issued  
13 by passing the applicable language content test  
14 required by the State Board of Education.

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

25           (iv) (Blank).

26 A language endorsement on an Educator License with

1 Stipulations is valid for prekindergarten through  
2 grade 12 for the same validity period as the  
3 individual's transitional bilingual educator  
4 endorsement on the Educator License with Stipulations  
5 and shall not be renewed.

6 (I) Visiting international educator. A visiting  
7 international educator endorsement on an Educator  
8 License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
9 individual who is being recruited by a particular  
10 school district that conducts formal recruitment  
11 programs outside of the United States to secure the  
12 services of qualified teachers and who meets all of  
13 the following requirements:

14 (i) Holds the equivalent of a minimum of a  
15 bachelor's degree issued in the United States.

16 (ii) Has been prepared as a teacher at the  
17 grade level for which he or she will be employed.

18 (iii) Has adequate content knowledge in the  
19 subject to be taught.

20 (iv) Has an adequate command of the English  
21 language.

22 A holder of a visiting international educator  
23 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
24 shall be permitted to teach in bilingual education  
25 programs in the language that was the medium of  
26 instruction in his or her teacher preparation program,

1 provided that he or she passes the English Language  
2 Proficiency Examination or another test of writing  
3 skills in English identified by the State Board of  
4 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
5 Preparation and Licensure Board.

6 A visiting international educator endorsement on  
7 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 5  
8 years and shall not be renewed.

9 (J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional  
10 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
11 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who is at  
12 least 18 years of age and will be using the Educator  
13 License with Stipulations exclusively for grades  
14 prekindergarten through 8 until the individual reaches  
15 the age of 19 years or an applicant 19 years of age or  
16 older who otherwise meets the criteria for a  
17 paraprofessional educator endorsement pursuant to this  
18 subparagraph (J). An applicant for a paraprofessional  
19 educator endorsement must also meet at least one of  
20 the following requirements:

21 (i) hold ~~holds~~ a high school diploma or its  
22 recognized equivalent and pass a paraprofessional  
23 competency test under subsection (c-5) of Section  
24 21B-30;

25 (ii) hold ~~(i) holds~~ an associate ~~associate's~~  
26 degree or a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit

1 from a regionally accredited institution of higher  
2 education; ~~(ii) has passed a paraprofessional~~  
3 ~~competency test under subsection (c-5) of Section~~  
4 ~~21B-30;~~ or

5 (iii) if applicable, have been issued a  
6 short-term approval for paraprofessionals, as  
7 established by rule by the State Board of  
8 Education, and have been employed as a  
9 paraprofessional educator for each year the  
10 short-term approval is valid, have paid the  
11 required license renewal fee under Section 21B-40,  
12 and have been determined by the school district to  
13 have met the following competencies:

14 (I) reinforces teacher-led instruction,  
15 including knowledge of and the ability to  
16 assist in reading, writing, and mathematics  
17 instruction;

18 (II) understands and follows  
19 individualized education programs and federal  
20 Section 504 plans;

21 (III) supports differentiated  
22 instruction;

23 (IV) understands basic literacy and  
24 numeracy support strategies;

25 (V) implements behavior plans and exhibits  
26 skills in the redirection of student

1           behaviors;

2                   (VI) follows health plans and school and  
3                   classroom safety procedures; and

4                   (VII) takes direction from licensed staff,  
5                   including administrators and teachers, and  
6                   understands the individual's role within the  
7                   instructional team. ~~is at least 18 years of~~  
8                   age and will be using the Educator License  
9                   with Stipulations exclusively for grades  
10                   prekindergarten through grade 8, until the  
11                   individual reaches the age of 19 years and  
12                   otherwise meets the criteria for a  
13                   paraprofessional educator endorsement  
14                   pursuant to this subparagraph (J).

15           The paraprofessional educator endorsement is valid  
16           until June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
17           endorsement being issued and may be renewed through  
18           application and payment of the appropriate fee, as  
19           required under Section 21B-40 of this Code. ~~An~~  
20           ~~individual who holds only a paraprofessional educator~~  
21           ~~endorsement is not subject to additional requirements~~  
22           ~~in order to renew the endorsement.~~

23           (K) Chief school business official. A chief school  
24           business official endorsement on an Educator License  
25           with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
26           qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2

1 years of full-time administrative experience in school  
2 business management or 2 years of university-approved  
3 practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester  
4 hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the  
5 State Board of Education for the preparation of school  
6 business administrators and by passage of the  
7 applicable State tests, including an applicable  
8 content area test.

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

21 The chief school business official endorsement on  
22 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
23 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
24 endorsement being issued and may be renewed if the  
25 license holder completes renewal requirements as  
26 required for individuals who hold a Professional

1 Educator License endorsed for chief school business  
2 official under Section 21B-45 of this Code and such  
3 rules as may be adopted by the State Board of  
4 Education.

5 The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules  
6 necessary to implement Public Act 100-288.

7 (L) Provisional in-state educator. A provisional  
8 in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License  
9 with Stipulations may be issued to a candidate who has  
10 completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation  
11 program at an Illinois institution of higher education  
12 and who has not successfully completed an  
13 evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness but  
14 who meets all of the following requirements:

15 (i) Holds at least a bachelor's degree.

16 (ii) Has completed an approved educator  
17 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

18 (iii) Has passed an applicable content area  
19 test, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.

20 (iv) Has attempted an evidence-based  
21 assessment of teacher effectiveness and received a  
22 minimum score on that assessment, as established  
23 by the State Board of Education in consultation  
24 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
25 Board.

26 A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an

1 Educator License with Stipulations is valid for one  
2 full fiscal year after the date of issuance and may not  
3 be renewed.

4 (M) (Blank).

5 (N) Specialized services. A specialized services  
6 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
7 may be issued as defined and specified by rule.

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

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

26 An individual who holds a provisional career and

1 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
2 with Stipulations may teach as a substitute teacher in  
3 career and technical education classrooms.

4 An individual who holds a provisional career and  
5 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
6 with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and  
7 privileges granted to a holder of a Professional  
8 Educator License.

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

19 Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

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

26 A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a

1 licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing  
2 board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under  
3 contract because of an emergency situation, then a  
4 district may employ a substitute teacher for no longer  
5 than 30 calendar days per each vacant position in the  
6 district if the district notifies the appropriate regional  
7 office of education within 5 business days after the  
8 employment of the substitute teacher in that vacant  
9 position. A district may continue to employ that same  
10 substitute teacher in that same vacant position for 90  
11 calendar days or until the end of the semester, whichever  
12 is greater, if, prior to the expiration of the  
13 30-calendar-day period then current, the district files a  
14 written request with the appropriate regional office of  
15 education for a 30-calendar-day extension on the basis  
16 that the position remains vacant and the district  
17 continues to actively seek qualified candidates and  
18 provides documentation that it has provided training  
19 specific to the position, including training on meeting  
20 the needs of students with disabilities and English  
21 learners if applicable. Each extension request shall be  
22 granted in writing by the regional office of education. An  
23 emergency situation is one in which an unforeseen vacancy  
24 has occurred and (i) a teacher is unexpectedly unable to  
25 fulfill his or her contractual duties or (ii) teacher  
26 capacity needs of the district exceed previous indications

1 or vacancies are unfilled due to a lack of qualified  
2 candidates, and the district is actively engaged in  
3 advertising to hire a fully licensed teacher for the  
4 vacant position.

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

19 A school district may not require an individual who  
20 holds a valid Professional Educator License or Educator  
21 License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute  
22 Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher.

23 (4) Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Beginning  
24 on July 1, 2018 and until June 30, 2028, applicants may  
25 apply to the State Board of Education for issuance of a  
26 Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. A Short-Term

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

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

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

17 An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
18 License may teach no more than 15 consecutive days per  
19 licensed teacher who is under contract. For teacher  
20 absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who  
21 is under contract, a school district may not hire an  
22 individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
23 License, unless the Governor has declared a disaster due  
24 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the  
25 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. An individual  
26 holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License must

1 complete the training program under Section 10-20.67 or  
2 34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible to teach at a public  
3 school. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses under this  
4 Section are valid for 5 years.

5 (Source: P.A. 103-111, eff. 6-29-23; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23;  
6 103-193, eff. 1-1-24; 103-564, eff. 11-17-23; 103-617, eff.  
7 7-1-24; 104-128, eff. 1-1-26; 104-316, eff. 8-15-25; revised  
8 11-20-25.)".