



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB2997

Introduced 2/5/2020, by Sen. Jil Tracy

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-20

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides for a specialized educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations to be issued to an applicant who, at the time of applying for the endorsement, has (i) graduated from a regionally accredited college or university with an associate degree or higher, (ii) completed at least 6 semester hours of coursework from an Illinois-approved educator preparation program, and (iii) passed a content area test in the content area in which he or she completed a major at the regionally accredited college or university. Allows the holder of a specialized educator endorsement to teach in an elementary or secondary school in the content area in which he or she completed a major at the regionally accredited college or university.

LRB101 16501 NHT 65882 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

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 educator
12 license with stipulations; (iii) a substitute teaching
13 license; or (iv) until June 30, 2023, a short-term substitute
14 teaching license. References in law regarding individuals
15 certified or certificated or required to be certified or
16 certificated under Article 21 of this Code shall also include
17 individuals licensed or required to be licensed under this
18 Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June 30
19 following one full year of the license being issued.

20 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 (1) Professional Educator License. Persons who (i)
2 have successfully completed an approved educator
3 preparation program and are recommended for licensure by
4 the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation
5 program, (ii) have successfully completed the required
6 testing under Section 21B-30 of this Code, (iii) have
7 successfully completed coursework on the psychology of,
8 the identification of, and the methods of instruction for
9 the exceptional child, including without limitation
10 children with learning disabilities, (iv) have
11 successfully completed coursework in methods of reading
12 and reading in the content area, and (v) have met all other
13 criteria established by rule of the State Board of
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
18 specific areas and grade levels in which the individual is
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
24 be paid and receive credit while student teaching. The
25 student teaching experience must meet the requirements of
26 and be approved by the individual's early childhood teacher

1 preparation program.

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

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

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

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

18 (A) (Blank).

19 (B) Alternative provisional educator. An
20 alternative provisional educator endorsement on an
21 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an
22 applicant who, at the time of applying for the
23 endorsement, has done all of the following:

24 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited
25 college or university with a minimum of a
26 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

1 endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55
2 of this Code.

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

5 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
10 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License
11 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who has
12 a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework from a
13 regionally accredited institution of higher education
14 or an accredited trade and technical institution and
15 has a minimum of 2,000 hours of experience outside of
16 education in each area to be taught.

17 The career and technical educator endorsement on
18 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until
19 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the
20 endorsement being issued and may be renewed. For
21 individuals who were issued the career and technical
22 educator endorsement on an Educator License with
23 Stipulations on or after January 1, 2015, the license
24 may be renewed if the individual passes a test of work
25 proficiency, as required under Section 21B-30 of this
26 Code.

1 An individual who holds a valid career and
2 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License
3 with Stipulations but does not hold a bachelor's degree
4 may substitute teach in career and technical education
5 classrooms.

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

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

1 years. For individuals who were issued the provisional
2 career and technical educator endorsement on an
3 Educator License with Stipulations on or after January
4 1, 2015, the license may be renewed if the individual
5 passes a test of work proficiency, as required under
6 Section 21B-30 of this Code.

7 A part-time provisional career and technical
8 educator endorsement on an Educator License with
9 Stipulations may be issued for teaching no more than 2
10 courses of study for grades 6 through 12. The part-time
11 provisional career and technical educator endorsement
12 on an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until
13 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the
14 endorsement being issued and may be renewed for 5 years
15 if the individual makes application for renewal.

16 An individual who holds a provisional or part-time
17 provisional career and technical educator endorsement
18 on an Educator License with Stipulations but does not
19 hold a bachelor's degree may substitute teach in career
20 and technical education classrooms.

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

1 of the following requirements:

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

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

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

19 A transitional bilingual educator endorsement
20 shall be valid for prekindergarten through grade 12, is
21 valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of
22 the endorsement being issued, and shall not be 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 individual
4 who holds an Educator License with Stipulations may
5 also apply for a language endorsement, provided that
6 the applicant provides satisfactory evidence that he
7 or she meets all of the following requirements:

8 (i) Holds a transitional bilingual
9 endorsement.

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

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

24 (iv) (Blank).

25 A language endorsement on an Educator License with
26 Stipulations is valid for prekindergarten through

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 A visiting international educator endorsement on
6 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 3
7 years and shall not be renewed.

8 (J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional
9 educator endorsement on an Educator License with
10 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who holds a
11 high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and
12 either holds an associate's degree or a minimum of 60
13 semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited
14 institution of higher education or has passed a
15 paraprofessional competency test under subsection
16 (c-5) of Section 21B-30. The paraprofessional educator
17 endorsement is valid until June 30 immediately
18 following 5 years of the endorsement being issued and
19 may be renewed through application and payment of the
20 appropriate fee, as required under Section 21B-40 of
21 this Code. An individual who holds only a
22 paraprofessional educator endorsement is not subject
23 to additional requirements in order to renew the
24 endorsement.

25 (K) Chief school business official. A chief school
26 business official endorsement on an Educator License

1 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who
2 qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2
3 years of full-time administrative experience in school
4 business management or 2 years of university-approved
5 practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester
6 hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the
7 State Board of Education for the preparation of school
8 business administrators and by passage of the
9 applicable State tests, including an applicable
10 content area test.

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

23 The chief school business official endorsement on
24 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until
25 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the
26 endorsement being issued and may be renewed if the

1 license holder completes renewal requirements as
2 required for individuals who hold a Professional
3 Educator License endorsed for chief school business
4 official under Section 21B-45 of this Code and such
5 rules as may be adopted by the State Board of
6 Education.

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

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

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

18 (ii) Has completed an approved educator
19 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

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

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

1 Board.

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

6 (M) School support personnel intern. A school
7 support personnel intern endorsement on an Educator
8 License with Stipulations may be issued as specified by
9 rule.

10 (N) Special education area. A special education
11 area endorsement on an Educator License with
12 Stipulations may be issued as defined and specified by
13 rule.

14 (O) Specialized educator. A specialized educator
15 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations
16 may be issued to an applicant who, at the time of
17 applying for the endorsement, has done all of the
18 following:

19 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited
20 college or university with an associate degree or
21 higher.

22 (ii) Completed at least 6 semester hours of
23 coursework from an Illinois-approved educator
24 preparation program.

25 (iii) Passed a content area test, as required
26 under Section 21B-30 of this Code, in the content

1 area in which he or she completed a major at the
2 regionally accredited college or university.

3 The specialized educator endorsement is valid for
4 2 years of teaching and may be renewed. The holder of a
5 specialized educator endorsement shall be permitted to
6 teach in an elementary or secondary school in the
7 content area in which he or she completed a major at
8 the regionally accredited college or university.

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 degree
15 or higher from a regionally accredited institution of
16 higher education.

17 Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

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

24 A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a
25 licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing
26 board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under

1 contract because of an emergency situation, then a district
2 may employ a substitute teacher for no longer than 30
3 calendar days per each vacant position in the district if
4 the district notifies the appropriate regional office of
5 education within 5 business days after the employment of
6 the substitute teacher in the emergency situation. An
7 emergency situation is one in which an unforeseen vacancy
8 has occurred and (i) a teacher is unable to fulfill his or
9 her contractual duties or (ii) teacher capacity needs of
10 the district exceed previous indications, and the district
11 is actively engaged in advertising to hire a fully licensed
12 teacher for the vacant position.

13 There is no limit on the number of days that a
14 substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,
15 provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer
16 than 90 school days for any one licensed teacher under
17 contract in the same school year. A substitute teacher who
18 holds a Professional Educator License or Educator License
19 with Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school
20 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the
21 same school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on
22 the number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do
23 not apply to any school district operating under Article 34
24 of this Code.

25 A school district may not require an individual who
26 holds a valid Professional Educator License or Educator

1 License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute
2 Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher.

3 (4) Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Beginning
4 on July 1, 2018 and until June 30, 2023, the State Board of
5 Education may issue a Short-Term Substitute Teaching
6 License. A Short-Term Substitute Teaching License may be
7 issued to a qualified applicant for substitute teaching in
8 all grades of the public schools, prekindergarten through
9 grade 12. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are not
10 eligible for endorsements. Applicants for a Short-Term
11 Substitute Teaching License must hold an associate's
12 degree or have completed at least 60 credit hours from a
13 regionally accredited institution of higher education.

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

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

22 An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching
23 License may teach no more than 5 consecutive days per
24 licensed teacher who is under contract. For teacher
25 absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who is
26 under contract, a school district may not hire an

1 individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching
2 License. An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute
3 Teaching License must complete the training program under
4 Section 10-20.67 or 34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible to
5 teach at a public school. This paragraph (4) is inoperative
6 on and after July 1, 2023.

7 (Source: P.A. 100-8, eff. 7-1-17; 100-13, eff. 7-1-17; 100-288,
8 eff. 8-24-17; 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-821, eff. 9-3-18;
9 100-863, eff. 8-14-18; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-220, eff.
10 8-7-19; 101-594, eff. 12-5-19.)