

1 AN ACT relating to teacher certification.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 161.030 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) Notwithstanding the age of the pupil, the certification of all teachers and other  
5 school personnel, in public schools only, is vested in the Education Professional  
6 Standards Board. When so certified, teachers and other school personnel shall not  
7 be required to have licensure, certification, or other forms of approval from any  
8 other state agency for the performance of their respective assignments within the  
9 system of public schools, except as provided for by law. All certificates authorized  
10 under KRS 161.010 to 161.126 shall be issued in accordance with the  
11 administrative regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board. After  
12 July 15, 1994, all certificate applications and other data collection instruments of  
13 the board shall include a request for voluntary information about the applicant's  
14 ethnic background. This information shall be available to help local school districts  
15 locate minority candidates. A person who holds a certificate prior to this  
16 requirement may request that ethnic information be added to his or her file. Nothing  
17 in this section shall preclude the right of an individual in a nonpublic school from  
18 seeking voluntary certification by the Education Professional Standards Board.

19 (2) Certificates shall be issued upon written application and in accordance with statutes  
20 and regulations in effect at the time of application to persons who have completed,  
21 at colleges, universities, or local school district programs approved by the  
22 Education Professional Standards Board for the preparation of teachers and other  
23 school personnel, the curricula prescribed by the administrative regulations of the  
24 Education Professional Standards Board.

25 (3) (a) Certification of all new teachers and teachers seeking additional certification  
26 shall require the successful completion of appropriate assessments prior to  
27 certification. The assessments shall be selected by the Education Professional

1 Standards Board and shall measure knowledge in the specific teaching field of  
2 the applicant, including content of the field and teaching of that content. The  
3 Education Professional Standards Board shall determine the minimum  
4 acceptable level of achievement on each assessment. The assessments shall  
5 measure those concepts, ideas, and facts which are being taught in teacher  
6 education programs in Kentucky. Upon successful completion of the  
7 assessments and the approved teacher preparation program, a professional  
8 certificate valid for five (5) years shall be issued.

9 (b) If an applicant for teacher certification has completed the approved teacher  
10 preparation program and has taken but failed to successfully complete the  
11 appropriate assessments selected by the Education Professional Standards  
12 Board, a conditional certificate may be issued for a period not to exceed one  
13 (1) year. The employing school district, in collaboration with the teacher  
14 education institution, shall provide technical assistance and mentoring support  
15 to the conditionally certified teacher. The teacher shall retake the assessments  
16 during the validity period of the conditional certificate. The conditional  
17 certificate shall not be reissued. Upon successful completion of the required  
18 assessments, a professional certificate valid for five (5) years shall be issued.  
19 The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative  
20 regulations to establish the standards and procedures for issuance of a  
21 conditional certificate.

22 (c) If an out-of-state teacher with less than two (2) years' experience comes to  
23 Kentucky after the deadline for taking the assessments, a temporary certificate  
24 may be issued for a period up to six (6) months. The teacher shall take the  
25 assessments during the period of the temporary certificate. If the teacher fails  
26 the assessments, the temporary certificate shall be valid only for the current  
27 semester. If the teacher passes the assessments, a professional certificate valid

1 for five (5) years shall be issued.

2 (4) A reasonable fee to be paid by the teacher and directly related to the actual cost of  
3 the administration of the assessments shall be established by the Education  
4 Professional Standards Board. Provisions shall be made for persons having less than  
5 minimum levels of performance on any assessment to repeat that assessment, and  
6 candidates shall be informed of their strengths and weaknesses in the specific  
7 performance areas. The Education Professional Standards Board shall provide for  
8 confidentiality of the individual assessment scores. Scores shall be available only to  
9 the candidate and to the education officials who are responsible for determining  
10 whether established certification standards have been met. Scores shall be used only  
11 in the assessment for certification of new teachers and of out-of-state teachers with  
12 less than two (2) years of teaching experience who are seeking initial certification  
13 in Kentucky.

14 (5) If an applicant establishes eligibility for a five (5) year professional certificate under  
15 the provisions of subsection (3)(a) of this section, the applicant shall also be eligible  
16 for the issuance of a certificate for substitute teaching as provided by the  
17 administrative regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board.

18 (6) (a) The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue a ten (10) year  
19 emeritus certificate to an applicant who has:

- 20 1. Retired or will retire not more than one (1) year prior to the expiration  
21 date of the certificate;
- 22 2. Met the requirements to receive an emeritus certificate as set forth in  
23 administrative regulation promulgated by the Education Professional  
24 Standards Board; and
- 25 3. Completed the required application unless the provisions of KRS  
26 161.120 apply.

27 (b) The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue a one (1) time five (5)

1 year exception certificate to an individual:

- 2 1. Whose certificate has expired;
- 3 2. Whose rank upon expiration was Rank I or Rank II;
- 4 3. Who has met the requirements to receive an exception certificate as set
- 5 forth in administrative regulation promulgated by the Education
- 6 Professional Standards Board;
- 7 4. Who completed three (3) years of classroom instruction prior to the
- 8 certificate's expiration; and
- 9 5. Who has completed the required application unless the provisions of
- 10 KRS 161.120 apply.

11 (c) The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue a five (5) year  
12 certificate to an individual:

- 13 1. Whose certificate has expired;
- 14 2. Who has met the requirements for a certificate or statement of
- 15 eligibility under the administrative regulation promulgated by the
- 16 Education Professional Standards Board; and
- 17 3. Who submits proof of successful completion of six (6) credit hours of
- 18 graduate coursework.

19 (d) The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue a one (1) time five  
20 (5) year certificate to an individual:

- 21 1. Whose certificate has expired;
- 22 2. Who has met the requirements for a certificate or statement of
- 23 eligibility under the administrative regulation promulgated by the
- 24 Education Professional Standards Board; and
- 25 3. Who submits a waiver issued by a school district superintendent
- 26 exempting the applicant from requirement to submit proof of
- 27 successful completion of six (6) credit hours of graduate coursework

1                                   under paragraph (c)3. of this subsection.

- 2       (7) The Education Professional Standards Board shall approve the curricula of any  
3           college or university, or of any department thereof, for the training of teachers, and  
4           any nontraditional or alternative teacher preparation program offered in a public or  
5           private postsecondary education institution, private contractor, or state agency, and  
6           shall also approve the curricula of any local district alternative certification  
7           program, when the curricula comply with the administrative regulations of the  
8           Education Professional Standards Board for the issuance of certificates and when  
9           the institution has met the terms and conditions provided in KRS 161.010 to  
10          161.120. Any student who has completed any of these curricula, as approved by the  
11          Education Professional Standards Board, and who has completed the prescribed  
12          requirements for the issuance of certificates shall be granted a certificate  
13          corresponding to the curricula completed.
- 14       (8) The issuance of any certificate, except emergency certificates issued pursuant to  
15          KRS 161.100, by the Education Professional Standards Board shall not be  
16          dependent upon an offer of employment. The certification process, except for  
17          emergency certificates, is independent of any job prospects and certification shall  
18          be awarded on the basis of completing a teacher preparation program or an  
19          alternative certification pathway and passing required assessments.