

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2020 REGULAR SESSION**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**Senate Bill 623**

SENATORS RUCKER, PLYMALE, ROBERTS, AND CLINE,

*original sponsors*

[Originating in the Committee on Education; reported

on February 4, 2020]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18A-3-1 and §18A-3-1f of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as  
2 amended, all relating to making a noncitizen of the United States eligible for a certificate  
3 to teach or an alternative program teacher certificate if he or she holds a valid Permanent  
4 Resident Card, Employment Authorization Document, or work permit issued by the United  
5 States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 3. TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT.**

**§18A-3-1. Teacher preparation programs; program approval and standards; authority to  
issue teaching certificates.**

1 (a) The education of professional educators in the state is under the general direction and  
2 control of the state board.

3 The education of professional educators in the state includes all programs leading to  
4 certification to teach or serve in the public schools. The programs include the following:

5 (1) Programs in all institutions of higher education, including student teaching and teacher-  
6 in-residence programs as provided in this section;

7 (2) Beginning teacher induction programs;

8 (3) Granting West Virginia certification to persons who received their preparation to teach  
9 outside the boundaries of this state, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section;

10 (4) Alternative preparation programs in this state leading to certification, including  
11 programs established pursuant to the provisions of §18A-3-1a, §18A-3-1b, §18A-3-1c, §18A-3-  
12 1d, §18A-3-1e, §18A-3-1f, §18A-3-1g, §18A-3-1h, and §18A-3-1i of this code and programs which  
13 are in effect on the effective date of this section; and

14 (5) Continuing professional education, professional development, and in-service training  
15 programs for professional educators employed in the public schools in the state.

16 (b) The state board shall adopt standards for the education of professional educators in  
17 the state and for awarding certificates valid in the public schools of this state. The standards  
18 include, but are not limited to, the following:

19 (1) A provision for the study of the history and philosophical foundations of Western  
20 Civilization and the writings of the founders of the United States of America;

21 (2) A provision for the study of multicultural education. As used in this section, multicultural  
22 education means the study of the pluralistic nature of American society including its values,  
23 institutions, organizations, groups, status positions, and social roles;

24 (3) A provision for the study of classroom management techniques, including methods of  
25 effective management of disruptive behavior including addressing societal factors and their  
26 impact on student behavior; and

27 (4) A teacher from another state shall be awarded a teaching certificate for a comparable  
28 grade level and subject area valid in the public schools of this state, subject to §18A-3-10 of this  
29 code if he or she has met the following requirements:

30 (A) Holds a valid teaching certificate or a certificate of eligibility issued by another state;

31 (B) Has graduated from an educator preparation program at a regionally accredited  
32 institution of higher education or from another educator preparation program;

33 (C) Possesses the minimum of a bachelor's degree; and

34 (D) Meets all of the requirements of the state for full certification except employment.

35 (c) The state board may enter into an agreement with county boards for the use of the  
36 public schools in order to give prospective teachers the teaching experience needed to  
37 demonstrate competence as a prerequisite to certification to teach in the West Virginia public  
38 schools.

39 (d) An agreement established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall recognize  
40 student teaching as a joint responsibility of the educator preparation institution and the  
41 cooperating public schools. The agreement shall include the following items:

42 (1) The minimum qualifications for the employment of public school teachers selected as  
43 supervising teachers, including the requirement that field-based and clinical experiences be  
44 supervised by a teacher fully certified in the state in which that teacher is supervising;

45 (2) The remuneration to be paid to public school teachers by the state board, in addition  
46 to their contractual salaries, for supervising student teachers;

47 (3) Minimum standards to guarantee the adequacy of the facilities and program of the  
48 public school selected for student teaching;

49 (4) Assurance that the student teacher, under the direction and supervision of the  
50 supervising teacher, shall exercise the authority of a substitute teacher;

51 (5) A provision requiring any higher education institution with an educator preparation  
52 program to document that the student teacher's field-based and clinical experiences include  
53 participation and instruction with multicultural, at-risk, and exceptional children at each  
54 programmatic level for which the student teacher seeks certification; and

55 (6) A provision authorizing a school or school district that has implemented a  
56 comprehensive beginning teacher induction program to enter into an agreement that provides for  
57 the training and supervision of student teachers consistent with the educational objectives of this  
58 subsection by using an alternate structure implemented for the support, supervision, and  
59 mentoring of beginning teachers. The agreement is in lieu of any specific provisions of this  
60 subsection and is subject to the approval of the state board.

61 (e) *Teacher-in-residence programs.* —

62 (1) In lieu of the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this section and subject to approval  
63 of the state board, an institution of higher education with a program for the education of  
64 professional educators approved by the state board may enter into an agreement with county  
65 boards for the use of teacher-in-residence programs in the public schools.

66 (2) A "teacher-in-residence program" means an intensively supervised and mentored  
67 residency program for prospective teachers during their senior year that refines their professional

68 practice skills and helps them gain the teaching experience needed to demonstrate competence  
69 as a prerequisite to certification to teach in the West Virginia public schools.

70 (3) The authorization for the higher education institution and the county board to  
71 implement a teacher-in-residence program is subject to state board approval. The provisions of  
72 the agreement include, but are not limited to, the following items:

73 (A) A requirement that the prospective teacher in a teacher-in-residence program has  
74 completed all other preparation courses and has passed the appropriate basic skills and subject  
75 matter test or tests required by the state board for teachers to become certified in the area for  
76 which licensure is sought;

77 (B) A requirement that the teacher-in-residence serve only in a teaching position in the  
78 county which has been posted and for which no other teacher fully certified for the position has  
79 been employed;

80 (C) Specifics regarding the program of instruction for the teacher-in-residence setting forth  
81 the responsibilities for supervision and mentoring by the higher education institution's educator  
82 preparation program, the school principal, and peer teachers and mentors, and the responsibilities  
83 for the formal instruction or professional development necessary for the teacher-in-residence to  
84 perfect his or her professional practice skills. The program also may include other instructional  
85 items as considered appropriate;

86 (D) A requirement that the teacher-in-residence hold a teacher-in-residence permit  
87 qualifying the individual to teach in his or her assigned position as the teacher of record;

88 (E) A requirement that the salary and benefit costs for the position to which the teacher-  
89 in-residence is assigned shall be used only for program support and to pay a stipend to the  
90 teacher-in-residence as specified in the agreement, subject to the following:

91 (i) The teacher-in-residence is a student enrolled in the teacher preparation program of  
92 the institution of higher education and is not a regularly employed employee of the county board;

93 (ii) The teacher-in-residence is included on the certified list of employees of the county

94 eligible for state aid funding the same as an employee of the county at the appropriate level based  
95 on their permit and level of experience;

96 (iii) All state aid funding due to the county board for the teacher-in-residence shall be used  
97 only in accordance with the agreement with the institution of higher education for support of the  
98 program as provided in the agreement, including costs associated with instruction and supervision  
99 as set forth in paragraph (C) of this subdivision;

100 (iv) The teacher-in-residence is provided the same liability insurance coverage as other  
101 employees; and

102 (v) All state aid funding due to the county for the teacher-in-residence and not required for  
103 support of the program shall be paid as a stipend to the teacher-in-residence: *Provided*, That the  
104 stipend paid to the teacher-in-residence shall be no less than 65 percent of all state aid funding  
105 due the county for the teacher-in-residence;

106 (F) Other provisions that may be required by the state board.

107 (f) In lieu of the student teaching experience in a public school setting required by this  
108 section, an institution of higher education may provide an alternate student teaching experience  
109 in a nonpublic school setting if the institution of higher education meets the following criteria:

110 (1) Complies with the provisions of this section;

111 (2) Has a state board-approved educator preparation program; and

112 (3) Enters into an agreement pursuant to subdivisions (g) and (h) of this section.

113 (g) At the discretion of the higher education institution, an agreement for an alternate  
114 student teaching experience between an institution of higher education and a nonpublic school  
115 shall require one of the following:

116 (1) The student teacher shall complete at least one-half of the clinical experience in a  
117 public school; or

118 (2) The educator preparation program shall include a requirement that any student  
119 performing student teaching in a nonpublic school shall complete the following:

120 (A) At least 200 clock hours of field-based training in a public school; and

121 (B) A course, which is a component of the institution's state board-approved educator  
122 preparation program, that provides information to prospective teachers equivalent to the teaching  
123 experience needed to demonstrate competence as a prerequisite to certification to teach in the  
124 public schools in West Virginia. The course also shall include instruction on at least the following  
125 elements:

126 (i) State board policy and provisions of this code governing public education;

127 (ii) Requirements for federal and state accountability, including the mandatory reporting of  
128 child abuse;

129 (iii) Federal and state mandated curriculum and assessment requirements, including  
130 multicultural education, safe schools, and student code of conduct;

131 (iv) Federal and state regulations for the instruction of exceptional students as defined by  
132 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq.*; and

133 (v) Varied approaches for effective instruction for students who are at-risk.

134 (h) In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (g) of this section, an agreement  
135 for an alternate student teaching experience between an institution of higher education and a  
136 nonpublic school shall include the following:

137 (1) A requirement that the higher education institution with an educator preparation  
138 program shall document that the student teacher's field-based and clinical experiences include  
139 participation and instruction with multicultural, at-risk, and exceptional children at each  
140 programmatic level for which the student teacher seeks certification; and

141 (2) The minimum qualifications for the employment of school teachers selected as  
142 supervising teachers, including the requirement that field-based and clinical experiences be  
143 supervised by a teacher fully certified in the state in which that teacher is supervising.

144 (i) The state superintendent may issue certificates as provided in §18A-3-2a of this code  
145 to graduates of educator preparation programs and alternative educator preparation programs

146 approved by the state board. The certificates are issued in accordance with this section and rules  
147 adopted by the state board.

148 (1) A certificate to teach may be granted only to a person who meets the following criteria:

149 (A) Is a citizen of the United States, except as provided in subdivision (2) or (3) of this  
150 subsection;

151 (B) Is of good moral character;

152 (C) Is physically, mentally, and emotionally qualified to perform the duties of a teacher;  
153 and

154 (D) Is at least 18 years of age on or before October 1 of the year in which his or her  
155 certificate is issued.

156 (2) A permit to teach in the public schools of this state may be granted to a person who is  
157 an exchange teacher from a foreign country or an alien person who meets the requirements to  
158 teach.

159 (3) A certificate to teach may be granted to a noncitizen of the United States who holds a  
160 valid Permanent Resident Card, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), or work permit  
161 issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

162 (j) Institutions of higher education approved for educator preparation may cooperate with  
163 each other and with one or more county boards to organize and operate centers to provide  
164 selected phases of the educator preparation program. The phases include, but are not limited to,  
165 the following:

166 (1) Student teaching and teacher-in-residence programs;

167 (2) Beginning teacher induction programs;

168 (3) Instruction in methodology; and

169 (4) Seminar programs for college students, teachers with provisional certification,  
170 professional support team members, and supervising teachers.

171 By mutual agreement, the institutions of higher education and county boards may budget



172 and expend funds to operate the centers through payments to the appropriate fiscal office of the  
173 participating institutions and the county boards.

174 (k) The provisions of this section do not require discontinuation of an existing student  
175 teacher training center or school which meets the standards of the state board.

176 (l) All institutions of higher education approved for educator preparation in the 1962-63  
177 school year continue to hold that distinction so long as they meet the minimum standards for  
178 educator preparation. Nothing in this section infringes upon the rights granted to any institution  
179 by charter given according to law previous to the adoption of this code.

180 (m) *Definitions.* — For the purposes of this section, the following words have the meanings  
181 ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

182 (1) “Nonpublic school” means a private school, parochial school, church school, school  
183 operated by a religious order, or other nonpublic school that elects to meet the following  
184 conditions:

185 (A) Comply with the provisions of §18-28-1 *et seq.* of this code;

186 (B) Participate on a voluntary basis in a state-operated or state-sponsored program  
187 provided to this type school pursuant to this section; and

188 (C) Comply with the provisions of this section;

189 (2) “At-risk” means a student who has the potential for academic failure including, but not  
190 limited to, the risk of dropping out of school, involvement in delinquent activity, or poverty as  
191 indicated by free or reduced lunch status; and

192 (3) “Exceptional child” or “exceptional children” has the meaning ascribed to these terms  
193 pursuant to §18-20-1 of this code but, as used in this section, the terms do not include gifted  
194 students.

**§18A-3-1f. Alternative program participation; eligibility for alternative program certificate;  
contract renewals; hiring preference.**

1 (a) *Alternative program participation.* — A person may not participate in an alternative

2 program unless he or she holds an alternative program teacher certificate issue by the state  
3 superintendent for the alternative program position in which he or she will be teaching. An  
4 alternative program teacher certificate is the same as a professional teaching certificate for the  
5 purpose of issuing a continuing contract.

6 (b) *Eligibility for alternative program teacher certificate.* — To be eligible for an alternative  
7 program teacher certificate, a person shall:

8 (1) Possess at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher  
9 education;

10 (2) Pass the same basic skills and subject matter test or tests required by the state board  
11 for traditional program candidates to become certified in the area for which he or she is seeking  
12 licensure;

13 (3) Hold United States citizenship or, if a noncitizen of the United States, hold a valid  
14 Permanent Resident Card, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), or work permit issued by  
15 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS);

16 (4) Be of good moral character;

17 (5) Be physically, mentally, and emotionally qualified to perform the duties of a teacher;

18 (6) Attain the age of 18 years on or before October 1 of the year in which the alternative  
19 program teacher certificate is issued;

20 (7) Receive from a county superintendent a formal offer of employment in an area of critical  
21 need and shortage and by a school or school district that is a member of an approved educational  
22 provider;

23 (8) Have relevant academic or occupational qualifications that reasonably indicate that the  
24 person will be competent to fill the teaching position in which he or she would be employed. For  
25 the purposes of this section, “reasonably indicate” means an academic major or occupational  
26 area the same as or similar to the subject matter to which the alternative program teacher is being  
27 hired to teach; and

28           (9) Qualify for employment after a criminal history check made pursuant to §18A-3-10 of  
29 this code.

30           (c) *Eligibility for alternative program certificate: American Sign Language.* — If a person  
31 seeks certification to teach American Sign Language, in lieu of subdivisions (1) and (2),  
32 subsection (b) of this section, he or she shall pass one or more appropriate state board-approved  
33 tests demonstrating his or her proficiency in American Sign Language.

34           (d) *Eligibility for alternative program certificate: selected vocational and technical areas.*  
35 — If a person seeks certification to teach in selected vocational and technical areas, in lieu of  
36 subdivisions (1) and (2), subsection (b) of this section, he or she shall pass one or more  
37 appropriate state board-approved tests demonstrating his or her proficiency in the basic skills and  
38 occupational content areas.

39           (e) *Contract renewals.* —

40           (1) A county board shall renew an alternative program teacher's contract from year to year  
41 as long as he or she makes satisfactory progress in the applicable alternative education program  
42 and until he or she completes the alternative program, except as provided in subdivision (2) of  
43 this subsection.

44           (2) If the school or school district that employs the alternative program teacher reduces its  
45 overall number of teachers, the alternative program teacher is subject to the same force reduction  
46 rules and procedures as any other employee, except those that relate to seniority. In no event will  
47 an alternative program teacher displace a professional educator as defined in §18A-1-1 of this  
48 code.