

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 911**

By Senator Grady

[Introduced March 24, 2025; referred  
to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18A-3-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to  
2 amend the code by adding a new section, designated §18A-3-2b, relating to the creation of  
3 adjunct teaching permits; and permitting an individual with an adjunct teaching permit to be  
4 hired to fill a vacant teaching position, offer a new program or class, or to supplement a  
5 program currently being offered only if no other teacher holding certification and training in  
6 the area is available and accepts the position or assignment.

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

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

**§18A-3-2a. Certificates valid in the public schools that may be issued by the State  
Superintendent.**

1 In accordance with state board rules for the education of professional educators adopted  
2 pursuant to §18A-3-1 if this code and subject to the limitations and conditions of that section, the  
3 State Superintendent may issue the following certificates valid in the public schools of the state:

4 (a) *Professional teaching certificates.* —

5 (1) A professional teaching certificate for teaching in the public schools may be issued to a  
6 person who meets the following conditions: (A) Holds at least a bachelor's degree from a  
7 regionally accredited institution of higher education, and:

8 (i) Has passed appropriate state board approved basic skills and subject matter tests in the  
9 area for which licensure is being sought; and

10 (ii) Has completed a program for the education of teachers which meets the requirements  
11 approved by the state board; or

12 (iii) Has met equivalent standards at institutions in other states; or

13 (iv) Has completed three years of successful teaching experience within the last seven  
14 years under a license issued by another state in the area for which licensure is being sought; or

- 15 (v) Has completed an alternative program approved by another state; or
- 16 (B) Holds at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education,
- 17 and:
- 18 (i) Has passed appropriate state board approved basic skills and subject matter tests; and
- 19 (ii) Has completed an alternative program for teacher education as provided in this article;
- 20 and
- 21 (iii) Is recommended for a certificate in accordance with the provisions of §18A-3-1i of this
- 22 code relating to the program; and
- 23 (iv) Is recommended by the State Superintendent based on documentation submitted; or
- 24 (C) Holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, and:
- 25 (i) Submits to a criminal history check pursuant to §18A-3-10 of this code: *Provided*, That
- 26 information discovered during the criminal history check may form the basis for the denial of a
- 27 certificate for just cause; and
- 28 (ii) Successfully completes pedagogical training or a pedagogical course or courses in
- 29 substantive alignment with nationally recognized pedagogical standards, or approved or
- 30 established by the state board; and
- 31 (iii) Passes the same subject matter and competency test or tests required by the state
- 32 board for traditional program applicants for licensure.
- 33 (2) The certificate shall be endorsed to indicate the grade level or levels or areas of
- 34 specialization in which the person is certified to teach or to serve in the public schools.
- 35 (3) The initial professional certificate is issued provisionally for a period of three years from
- 36 the date of issuance:
- 37 (A) The certificate may be converted to a professional certificate valid for five years subject
- 38 to successful completion of a beginning teacher induction program, if applicable; or
- 39 (B) The certificate may be renewed subject to rules adopted by the state board.
- 40 (4) Teaching certificates granted pursuant to §18A-3-2a(a)(1)(C) of this code shall be

equivalent to certificates granted to graduates of teacher preparation programs at public higher education institutions.

(b) *Alternative program teacher certificate.* — An alternative program teacher certificate may be issued to a candidate who is enrolled in an alternative program for teacher education approved by the state board.

(1) The certificate is valid only for the alternative program position in which the candidate is employed and is subject to enrollment in the program.

(2) The certificate is valid while the candidate is enrolled in the alternative program, up to a maximum of three years, and may not be renewed.

(c) *Professional administrative certificate.* —

(1) A professional administrative certificate, endorsed for serving in the public schools, with specific endorsement as a principal, vocational administrator, supervisor of instructions, or superintendent, may be issued to a person who has completed requirements all to be approved by the state board as follows:

(A) Holds at least a master's degree from an institution of higher education accredited to offer a master's degree, and:

(i) Has successfully completed an approved program for administrative certification developed by the state board in cooperation with the chancellor for higher education; and

(ii) Has successfully completed education and training in evaluation skills through the Center for Professional Development, or equivalent education and training in evaluation skills approved by the state board; and

(iii) Possesses three years of management level experience.

(2) Any person serving in the position of dean of students on June 4, 1992, is not required to hold a professional administrative certificate.

(3) The initial professional administrative certificate is issued provisionally for a period of five years. This certificate may be converted to a professional administrative certificate valid for

67 five years or renewed, subject to the regulations of the state board.

68 (d) *Paraprofessional certificate.* — A paraprofessional certificate may be issued to a  
69 person who meets the following conditions:

70 (1) Has completed 36 semester hours of post-secondary education or its equivalent in  
71 subjects directly related to performance of the job, all approved by the state board; and

72 (2) Demonstrates the proficiencies to perform duties as required of a paraprofessional as  
73 defined in §18A-4-8 of this code.

74 (e) *Other certificates; permits.* —

75 (1) Other certificates and permits may be issued, subject to the approval of the state board,  
76 to persons who do not qualify for the professional or paraprofessional certificate.

77 (2) A certificate or permit may not be given permanent status and a person holding one of  
78 these credentials shall meet renewal requirements provided by law and by regulation, unless the  
79 state board declares certain of these certificates to be the equivalent of the professional certificate.

80 (3) Within the category of other certificates and permits, the State Superintendent may  
81 issue certificates for persons to serve in the public schools as athletic coaches or coaches of other  
82 extracurricular activities, whose duties may include the supervision of students, subject to the  
83 following limitations:

84 (A) The person is employed under a contract with the county board of education.

85 (i) The contract specifies the duties to be performed, specifies a rate of pay that is  
86 equivalent to the rate of pay for professional educators in the district who accept similar duties as  
87 extra duty assignments, and provides for liability insurance associated with the activity; and

88 (ii) The person holding this certificate is not considered an employee of the board for salary  
89 and benefit purposes other than as specified in the contract.

90 (B) The person completes an orientation program designed and approved in accordance  
91 with state board rules.

92 (f) *Clinical Teacher of Record Permit.* —

(1) A clinical teacher of record permit may be issued to a candidate who is enrolled in a clinical teacher of record program in accordance with an agreement between an institution of higher education and a county board. The agreement is developed pursuant to §18A-3-1(e) of this code and requires approval by the state board.

(2) The permit is valid only for the clinical teacher of record program position in which the candidate is enrolled and is subject to enrollment in the program. The permit is valid for no more than one school year and may not be renewed.

*(g) Temporary teaching certificates for armed forces spouses. —*

(1) A temporary teaching certificate for an armed forces spouse may be issued to an individual who meets the following criteria:

(A) He or she is married to a member of the armed forces of the United States who is on active duty;

(B) He or she holds a current unencumbered teaching certificate or license issued by an equivalent credentialing department, board, or authority, as determined by the State Superintendent, in another state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, another territory or protectorate of the United States or a foreign country; and

(C) He or she provides proof acceptable to the State Superintendent that his or her spouse is assigned to a duty station in this state or at a military installation within 50 air miles of the West Virginia border and that he or she is also assigned to a duty station in this state or at a military installation within 50 air miles of the West Virginia border under his or her spouse's official active duty military orders.

(2) The State Superintendent shall deny a temporary teaching certificate to an individual described in paragraph (1) of this subdivision for fraud, material misrepresentation or concealment in the person's application for a temporary teaching certificate or for a conviction for which an individual's teaching certificate may be revoked under §18A-3-6 of this code.

(3) A temporary teaching certificate issued under paragraph (1) of this subdivision is valid for one year and may be renewed for additional one-year terms if the State Superintendent determines the individual holding the temporary teaching certificate continues to meet the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subdivision. The State Superintendent may revoke a temporary teaching certificate for a conviction for which an individual's teaching certificate may be revoked under §18A-3-6 of this code.

(h) Adjunct teaching permit. – An adjunct teacher permit may be issued to an individual who meets the requirements set forth in §18A-3-2b.

**§18A-3-2b. Adjunct teaching permit.**

(a) An individual with an adjunct teaching permit may be hired to fill a vacant teaching position, offer a new program or class, or to supplement a program currently being offered only if no other teacher holding certification and training in the area is available and accepts the position or assignment.

(b) An adjunct teacher permit may be issued to an individual who meets the following requirements:

(1) The individual has at least four years of experience in the content area in which the individual intends to teach through employment experience or has a college degree in that content area: *Provided*, That a related content area that includes the concepts of the content area in which the individual intends to teach satisfies this requirement;

(2) The individual submits to the criminal history check of applicants for licensure provided in §18A-3-10 of this code;

(3) The individual has not been convicted of a felony or plead guilty or plead no contest to a felony charge or convicted, plead guilty, or plead no contest to any charge involving sexual misconduct with a minor or a student.

(c) If a county board employs any individual with an adjunct teaching permit issued pursuant to this section:

18           (1) The employment may be on a part-time or full-time basis;

19           (2) The individual who holds the adjunct teaching permit may teach in any content area,  
20 including a career and technical education content area, in which the individual is allowed to teach  
21 based on the individual's experience described in subsection (b);

22           (3) The individual must be assigned a teacher mentor for support in pedagogy; and

23           (4) The individual shall complete the harassment, intimidation, and bullying training, and  
24 preventing child sexual abuse training required by state board Policy 4373, and education on the  
25 warning signs and resource to assist in suicide prevention pursuant to §18-2-40 of this code within  
26 the first 90 days of employment.

27           (c) An adjunct teacher may not provide special education instruction.

28           (d) Each county board that employs an adjunct teacher with an adjunct teacher permit  
29 issued pursuant to this section shall report to the West Virginia Department of Education the  
30 following information:

31           (1) The number of adjunct teachers who hold a permit issued under this section that the  
32 county board has hired each school year, disaggregated by the grade level and subject area  
33 taught by the adjunct teacher; and

34           (2) The following information for each adjunct teacher described in subdivision (1):

35           (A) The name of the adjunct teacher;

36           (B) The subject matter the adjunct teacher is permitted to teach;

37           (C) A description of the adjunct teacher's experience that qualifies him or her under §18A-  
38 3-2b(b)(1) of this code;

39           (D) The adjunct teacher's total salary and any other compensation paid to the adjunct  
40 teacher during the school year;

41           (E) The number of previous adjunct teaching employment agreements the adjunct teacher  
42 has entered into with the county board.

43           (e) A county board shall post a vacant adjunct teacher position pursuant to §18A-4-7a(q) of



- 44 this code.
- 45 (f) A county board may notify parents of students enrolled in the school of a vacant adjunct
- 46 teacher position.
- 47 (g) The county board shall announce any vacant adjunct teacher positions at its meetings.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill relates to the creation of adjunct teaching permits.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.