

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 327**

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1531 (MCL 380.1531), as amended by 2000 PA 497.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 1531. (1) Except as provided in this act, the  
2 superintendent of public instruction shall determine the  
3 requirements for and issue all licenses and certificates for  
4 teachers, including preprimary teachers, and the requirements for  
5 an endorsement of teachers as qualified counselors and an  
6 endorsement of teachers for teaching a foreign language in an  
7 elementary grade in the public schools of the state.  
8       (2) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the  
9 superintendent of public instruction shall only issue a teaching  
10 certificate to a person who has passed appropriate examinations as

1 follows:

2 (a) For a secondary level teaching certificate, has passed  
3 both the basic skills examination and the appropriate available  
4 subject area examination for each subject area in which he or she  
5 applies to be certified.

6 (b) For an elementary level teaching certificate, has passed  
7 the basic skills examination and, if it is available, the  
8 elementary certification examination, and has passed the  
9 appropriate available subject area examination for each subject  
10 area, if any, in which he or she applies to be certified.

11 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the  
12 superintendent of public instruction shall issue a Michigan  
13 teaching certificate to a person holding a certificate from another  
14 state or a teaching degree from an out-of-state teacher preparation  
15 institution who applies for a Michigan teaching certificate only if  
16 the person passes appropriate examinations as follows:

17 (a) For a secondary level teaching certificate, pass both the  
18 basic skills examination and the appropriate available subject area  
19 examination for each subject area in which he or she applies to be  
20 certified. The superintendent of public instruction may accept  
21 passage of an equivalent examination approved by the superintendent  
22 of public instruction to meet 1 or both of these requirements.

23 (b) For an elementary level teaching certificate, pass the  
24 basic skills examination and, if it is available, the elementary  
25 certification examination, and pass the appropriate available  
26 subject area examination for each subject area, if any, in which he  
27 or she applies to be certified. The superintendent of public

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1 instruction may accept passage of an equivalent examination  
2 approved by the superintendent of public instruction to meet 1 or  
3 more of these requirements.

4 (4) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the  
5 superintendent of public instruction shall only issue a teaching  
6 certificate to a person who has met the elementary or secondary, as  
7 applicable, reading credit requirements established under  
8 superintendent of public instruction rule. **IF A PERSON HOLDS AN  
9 ELEMENTARY LEVEL TEACHING CERTIFICATE, THEN BEGINNING JULY 1, 2007,  
10 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY RULE TO THE CONTRARY, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
11 PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL NOT RENEW THE PERSON'S PROVISIONAL  
12 TEACHING CERTIFICATE OR ADVANCE THE PERSON'S CERTIFICATION TO  
13 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION UNLESS THE PERSON, DURING THE FIRST <<6>>  
14 YEARS OF HIS OR HER EMPLOYMENT IN CLASSROOM TEACHING, SUCCESSFULLY  
15 COMPLETES AT LEAST A 3-CREDIT COURSE OF STUDY WITH APPROPRIATE  
16 FIELD EXPERIENCES IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND REMEDIATION OF READING  
17 DISABILITIES AND DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION. TO MEET THIS  
18 REQUIREMENT, THE COURSE OF STUDY SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST ALL OF THE  
19 FOLLOWING ELEMENTS, AS APPROPRIATE FOR THE PERSON'S CERTIFICATION  
20 LEVEL AND ENDORSEMENTS: INTEREST INVENTORIES, ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
21 LEARNING SCREENING, VISUAL AND AUDITORY DISCRIMINATION TOOLS,  
22 LANGUAGE EXPRESSION AND PROCESSING SCREENING, PHONEMICS, PHONICS,  
23 VOCABULARY, FLUENCY, COMPREHENSION, SPELLING AND WRITING ASSESSMENT  
24 TOOLS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES.**

25 (5) Not later than ~~1 year after the effective date of the~~  
26 ~~amendatory act that added this subsection~~ **JANUARY 11, 2002**, the  
27 superintendent of public instruction, in cooperation with

1 appropriate curriculum specialists and teacher educators, shall  
2 revise existing reading standards to recognize reading disorders  
3 and to enable teachers to make referrals for instruction and  
4 support for pupils with reading disorders.

5       (6) ~~—(5)—~~ Subject to subsection ~~—(7)—~~ (8), if a person holding  
6 a teaching certificate from another state applies to the  
7 superintendent of public instruction for a Michigan teaching  
8 certificate and meets the requirements of this subsection, the  
9 superintendent of public instruction shall issue to the person a  
10 Michigan professional education teaching certificate and applicable  
11 endorsements comparable to those the person holds in the other  
12 state, without requiring the person to pass a basic skills  
13 examination or the applicable subject area examination otherwise  
14 required under subsection (2) or (3). To be eligible to receive a  
15 Michigan professional education teaching certificate under this  
16 subsection, a person shall provide evidence satisfactory to the  
17 department that he or she meets all of the following requirements:

18       (a) Has taught successfully for at least 3 years in a position  
19 for which the person's teaching certification from the other state  
20 was valid.

21       (b) Has earned, after his or her initial certification in  
22 another state, at least 18 semester credit hours in a planned  
23 course of study at an institution of higher education approved by  
24 the superintendent of public instruction or has earned, at any  
25 time, a master's or doctoral degree approved by the superintendent  
26 of public instruction.

27       (c) Has met the elementary or secondary, as applicable,

1 reading credit requirement established under superintendent of  
2 public instruction rule.

3       (7) ~~—(6)—~~ A person who receives a teaching certificate and  
4 endorsement or endorsements under subsection ~~—(5)—~~ (6) is eligible  
5 to receive 1 or more additional endorsements comparable to  
6 endorsements the person holds in another state only if the person  
7 passes the appropriate subject area examinations required under  
8 subsection (2) or (3).

9       (8) ~~—(7)—~~ The superintendent of public instruction shall deny  
10 a Michigan teaching certificate to a person described in subsection  
11 ~~—(5)—~~ (6) for fraud, material misrepresentation, or concealment in  
12 the person's application for a certificate or for a conviction for  
13 which a person's teaching certificate may be revoked under section  
14 1535a.

15       (9) ~~—(8)—~~ The department, based upon criteria recommended  
16 pursuant to subsection ~~—(10)—~~ (11), shall provide to approved  
17 teacher education institutions guidelines and criteria approved by  
18 the superintendent of public instruction for use in the development  
19 or selection of a basic skills examination and approved guidelines  
20 and criteria for use in the development or selection of subject  
21 area examinations.

22       (10) ~~—(9)—~~ For the purposes of this section, the  
23 superintendent of public instruction, based upon criteria  
24 recommended pursuant to subsection ~~—(10)—~~ (11), shall develop,  
25 select, or develop and select 1 or more basic skills examinations  
26 and subject area examinations. In addition, the superintendent of  
27 public instruction, based upon criteria recommended pursuant to

1 subsection ~~—(10)—~~ (11), shall approve an elementary certification  
2 examination and a reading subject area examination.

3 (11) ~~—(10)—~~ The superintendent of public instruction shall  
4 appoint an 11-member teacher examination advisory committee  
5 comprised of representatives of approved teacher education  
6 institutions and Michigan education organizations and associations.  
7 Not more than 1/2 of the members comprising this committee shall be  
8 certified teachers. This committee shall recommend criteria to be  
9 used by the superintendent of public instruction in the  
10 development, selection, or development and selection of 1 or more  
11 basic skills examinations, and criteria to be used by the  
12 superintendent of public instruction in the development, selection,  
13 or development and selection of subject area examinations. In  
14 addition, the committee shall recommend guidelines for the use and  
15 administration of those examinations. The basic skills examinations  
16 referred to in this subsection may be developed by the  
17 superintendent of public instruction or selected by the  
18 superintendent of public instruction from commercially or  
19 university developed examinations. In addition, an approved teacher  
20 education institution, pursuant to guidelines and criteria  
21 described in subsection ~~—(8)—~~ (9), may develop an examination at  
22 its own expense for approval by the superintendent of public  
23 instruction. An approved teacher education institution that  
24 develops its own examination is liable for any litigation that  
25 results from the use of its examination.

26 (12) ~~—(11)—~~ The superintendent of public instruction shall  
27 appoint a 7-member standing technical advisory council comprised of

1 persons who are experts in measurement and assessment. This council  
2 shall advise the superintendent of public instruction and the  
3 teacher examination committee on the validity, reliability, and  
4 other technical standards of the examinations that will be used or  
5 are being used and of the administration and use of those  
6 examinations.

7       (13) ~~—(12)—~~ Not later than November 30 of each year, the  
8 superintendent of public instruction shall submit in writing a  
9 report on the development or selection and use of the basic skills  
10 examination, the elementary certification examination, and the  
11 subject area examinations to the house and senate education  
12 committees. The report shall also contain a financial statement  
13 regarding revenue received from the assessment of fees levied  
14 pursuant to subsection ~~—(14)—~~ (15) and the amount of and any  
15 purposes for which that revenue was expended.

16       (14) ~~—(13)—~~ The basic skills examination, the elementary  
17 certification examination, and the subject area examinations  
18 required by this section may be taken at different times during an  
19 approved teacher preparation program, but the basic skills  
20 examination must be passed before a person is enrolled for student  
21 teaching and the elementary certification examination and the  
22 subject area examinations, as applicable, must be passed before a  
23 person is recommended for certification.

24       (15) ~~—(14)—~~ The department, or if approved by the  
25 superintendent of public instruction, a private testing service,  
26 may assess fees for taking the basic skills examination, elementary  
27 certification examination, and the subject area examinations. The

1 fees, which shall be set by the superintendent of public  
2 instruction, shall not exceed \$50.00 for a basic skills examination  
3 or \$75.00 for an elementary certification examination or a subject  
4 area examination. However, if a subject area examination for  
5 vocational education includes a performance examination, an  
6 additional fee may be assessed for taking the performance  
7 examination, not to exceed the actual cost of administering the  
8 performance examination. Fees received by the department shall be  
9 expended solely for administrative expenses that it incurs in  
10 implementing this section.

11 (16) ~~—(15)—~~ If a person holding a teaching certificate from  
12 another state applies for a Michigan teaching certificate and meets  
13 all requirements for the Michigan teaching certificate except  
14 passage of the appropriate examinations under subsection (3), the  
15 superintendent of public instruction shall issue a nonrenewable  
16 temporary teaching certificate, good for 1 year, to the person. The  
17 superintendent of public instruction shall not issue a Michigan  
18 teaching certificate to the person after expiration of the  
19 temporary teaching certificate unless the person passes appropriate  
20 examinations as described in subsection (3).

21 (17) ~~—(16)—~~ As used in this section:

22 (a) "Basic skills examination" means an examination developed  
23 or selected by the superintendent of public instruction or  
24 developed pursuant to subsection ~~—(10)—~~ (11) by an approved teacher  
25 education institution for the purpose of demonstrating the  
26 applicant's knowledge and understanding of basic language and  
27 mathematical skills and other skills necessary for the certificate

1 sought, and for determining whether or not an applicant is eligible  
2 for a provisional Michigan teaching certificate.

3 (b) "Elementary certification examination" means a  
4 comprehensive examination for elementary certification that has  
5 been developed or selected by the superintendent of public  
6 instruction for demonstrating the applicant's knowledge and  
7 understanding of the core subjects normally taught in elementary  
8 classrooms and for determining whether or not an applicant is  
9 eligible for an elementary level teaching certificate.

10 (c) "Subject area examination" means an examination related to  
11 a specific area of certification, which examination has been  
12 developed or selected by the superintendent of public instruction  
13 for the purpose of demonstrating the applicant's knowledge and  
14 understanding of the subject matter and determining whether or not  
15 an applicant is eligible for a Michigan teaching certificate.

16 (18) ~~—(17)—~~ The superintendent of public instruction shall  
17 promulgate rules for the implementation of this section.

18 (19) ~~—(18)—~~ Notwithstanding any rule to the contrary, the  
19 superintendent of public instruction shall continue to issue state  
20 elementary or secondary continuing education certificates pursuant  
21 to R 390.1132(1) of the Michigan administrative code to persons who  
22 completed the requirements of that rule by December 31, 1992 and  
23 who apply for that certificate not later than March 15, 1994. If  
24 the superintendent of public instruction has issued a state  
25 elementary or secondary professional education certificate to a  
26 person described in this section, the superintendent of public  
27 instruction shall consider the person to have a state elementary or

1 secondary, as applicable, continuing education certificate.