

HOUSE BILL NO. 4151

February 26, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Martin, Kuhn, Schuette, DeBoyer, Steele, St. Germaine, Thompson, Schmaltz, Tisdell, Cavitt, Greene and Kelly and referred to Committee on Education and Workforce.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending section 1531 (MCL 380.1531), as amended by 2023 PA 110.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1531. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the
2 superintendent of public instruction shall determine the
3 requirements for and issue all licenses, certificates, and
4 endorsements for teachers, including preprimary teachers and
5 teachers as counselors, in the public schools of this state.

6 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the

1 superintendent of public instruction shall ~~only~~ issue a teaching
2 certificate or additional endorsement **only** to an individual who has
3 passed appropriate available examinations. The superintendent of
4 public instruction may accept passage of an equivalent examination
5 approved by the superintendent of public instruction to meet this
6 requirement for an individual holding a teaching certificate from
7 another state, country, or federally recognized Indian tribe.

8 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the
9 superintendent of public instruction shall ~~only~~ issue a teaching
10 certificate **only** to an individual who has met the elementary or
11 secondary, as applicable, reading credit requirements established
12 under superintendent of public instruction rule. If an individual
13 holds a teaching certificate, notwithstanding any rule to the
14 contrary, the superintendent of public instruction shall not
15 advance the individual's certification to professional
16 certification unless the individual has successfully completed at
17 least a 3-credit course of study with appropriate field experiences
18 in the diagnosis and remediation of reading disabilities and
19 differentiated instruction. To meet this requirement, the course of
20 study should include the following elements, as determined by the
21 department to be appropriate for the individual's certification
22 level and endorsements: interest inventories, English language
23 learning screening, visual and auditory discrimination tools,
24 language expression and processing screening, phonemics, phonics,
25 vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, spelling and writing assessment
26 tools, and instructional strategies. An individual may complete the
27 course of study as part of ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** teacher
28 preparation program.

29 (4) Any revisions to existing reading standards must include

1 the recognition of reading disorders and enable teachers to make
2 referrals for instruction and support for pupils with reading
3 disorders.

4 (5) Subject to subsection (8), if an individual holding a
5 teaching certificate from another state, country, or federally
6 recognized Indian tribe applies to the superintendent of public
7 instruction for a Michigan teaching certificate and meets the
8 requirements of this subsection, the superintendent of public
9 instruction shall issue to the individual a Michigan teaching
10 certificate and endorsements comparable to those the individual
11 holds in the other state or country or with the federally
12 recognized Indian tribe without requiring the individual to pass
13 the appropriate examinations otherwise required under subsection
14 (2) or to complete the reading credit requirement established under
15 superintendent of public instruction rule as described in
16 subsection (3). To be eligible to receive a Michigan teaching
17 certificate under this subsection, an individual shall provide
18 evidence satisfactory to the department that ~~he or she~~ **the**
19 **individual** has taught successfully for at least 3 years in a
20 position for which the individual's teaching certification from the
21 other state, country, or federally recognized Indian tribe was
22 valid.

23 (6) Subject to subsection (8), an individual holding a
24 teaching certificate from another state, country, or federally
25 recognized Indian tribe is eligible for a Michigan professional
26 education certificate if the individual meets both of the
27 following:

28 (a) The individual has taught successfully for at least 3
29 years in a position for which the individual's teaching

1 certification from the other state, country, or federally
2 recognized Indian tribe was valid.

3 (b) The individual meets the elementary or secondary, as
4 applicable, reading credit requirement established under
5 superintendent of public instruction rule as described in
6 subsection (3).

7 (7) Subject to subsection (8), if an individual holding a
8 teaching certificate from another state, country, or federally
9 recognized Indian tribe applies to the superintendent of public
10 instruction for an additional endorsement on a valid Michigan
11 teaching certificate and meets the requirements of this subsection,
12 the superintendent of public instruction shall issue the individual
13 an endorsement comparable to that which the individual holds in the
14 other state or country or with the federally recognized Indian
15 tribe without requiring that the individual pass the appropriate
16 available examinations otherwise required under subsection (2). To
17 be eligible to receive an additional endorsement under this
18 subsection, an individual shall provide evidence satisfactory to
19 the department that ~~he or she~~ **the individual** has taught
20 successfully for at least 3 years in a position for which the
21 individual's teaching endorsement from the other state, country, or
22 federally recognized Indian tribe is valid.

23 (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall deny a
24 Michigan teaching certificate or endorsement to an individual
25 described in subsection (5), (6), or (7) for fraud, material
26 misrepresentation, or concealment in the individual's application
27 for a certificate or for a conviction for which an individual's
28 teaching certificate may be suspended or revoked under section
29 1535a.

(9) For the purposes of this section, the superintendent of public instruction, based ~~upon~~^{on} criteria recommended by a committee of teachers, representatives of approved teacher education institutions, Michigan education organizations and associations, and experts in measurement and assessment, shall develop, select, or develop and select 1 or more subject area examinations. In addition, the superintendent of public instruction, based ~~upon~~^{on} criteria recommended by the committee described in this subsection, shall approve a reading subtest to be taken and passed by individuals seeking pre-K to grade 3 or grade 3 to grade 6-level endorsement. If the department develops for use under this subsection an examination that had previously been contracted for using a competitive bid process, ~~then~~ the department shall not expend on the development of that examination an amount that exceeds the amount that the department expended on procurement of the most recent competitively-bid version of that examination. The competitive bid process must address validity, reliability, and other technical standards of the examinations and of the appropriate administration and use of those examinations.

(10) Not later than November 30 of each year, the superintendent of public instruction shall submit in writing a report on the development or selection and use of the subject area examinations to the house and senate education committees. The report must also contain a financial statement regarding revenue received from the assessment of fees levied under subsection ~~(12)~~ **(13)** and the amount of and any purposes for which that revenue was expended.

(11) The examinations required by this section may be taken at different times during an approved teacher preparation program, but

1 the examinations, as applicable, must be passed before an
2 individual is recommended for certification.

3 **(12) The superintendent of public instruction shall issue an**
4 **additional endorsement for a subject area to an individual who has**
5 **passed the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification for that subject**
6 **area.**

7 **(13)** ~~(12)~~—The department, or if approved by the superintendent
8 of public instruction, a private testing service, may assess fees
9 for taking the appropriate available examinations described in
10 subsection (2). The fees ~~, which~~ must be set by the superintendent
11 of public instruction, **and** must not exceed the actual cost of the
12 examination and of administering the examination. Fees received by
13 the department must be expended solely for administrative expenses
14 that it incurs in implementing this section. If the superintendent
15 of public instruction increases a fee charged for an examination
16 under this subsection, at least 1 year before implementing the fee
17 increase, the department shall notify each approved teacher
18 education institution of the amount of the fee increase. An
19 approved teacher education institution shall notify each of its
20 affected students of the timing and amount of such a fee increase.

21 **(14)** ~~(13)~~—If an individual holding a teaching certificate from
22 another state, country, or federally recognized Indian tribe
23 applies for a Michigan teaching certificate and meets all
24 requirements for the Michigan teaching certificate except passage
25 of the appropriate available examinations under subsection (2) or
26 the reading credit requirement under subsection (3), the
27 superintendent of public instruction shall issue a nonrenewable
28 temporary teaching certificate, good for 1 year, to the individual.
29 The superintendent of public instruction shall not issue a Michigan

1 teaching certificate to the individual after expiration of the
2 temporary teaching certificate unless the individual has met the
3 requirements of this section.

4 (15) ~~(14)~~—As used in this section:

5 (a) "Additional endorsement" means an endorsement added to a
6 Michigan teaching certificate after initial issuance of the
7 certificate.

8 (b) "An individual holding a teaching certificate from another
9 state, country, or federally recognized Indian tribe" means an
10 individual with a valid teaching certificate or an individual who
11 is eligible for a teaching certificate in the state or country or
12 with the federally recognized Indian tribe in which or with which
13 the individual is certificated or eligible for certification.

14 (c) "Subject area examination" means an examination related to
15 an endorsement area for the purpose of demonstrating the
16 applicant's knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and
17 determining whether or not an applicant is eligible for a Michigan
18 teaching certificate or endorsement.

19 (16) ~~(15)~~—The superintendent of public instruction shall
20 promulgate rules ~~for the implementation of~~ **to implement** this
21 section.

22 (17) ~~(16) Not later than January 1, 2019, the~~ **The**
23 superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the
24 department of labor and economic opportunity and groups or
25 individuals representing employers, economic development agencies,
26 trade unions, secondary school principals, middle and elementary
27 school principals, teachers, school district and intermediate
28 school district superintendents, and others as determined
29 appropriate by the department, shall promulgate rules to allow an

1 individual to use time spent engaging with local employers or
2 technical centers toward the renewal of a teaching certificate in
3 the same manner as state continuing education or professional
4 development.