

1 SENATE BILL NO. 373

2 INTRODUCED BY D. SALOMON, F. ANDERSON, C. KNUDSEN, M. BERTOGLIO, B. LER, E. BUTTREY, L.  
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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO TEACHER CERTIFICATION;  
6 ESTABLISHING ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CREDENTIALING; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR  
7 APPLICANTS SEEKING ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALING AND FOR ALTERNATIVE TEACHER  
8 CERTIFICATION AND ENDORSEMENT PROGRAMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC  
9 EDUCATION UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION;  
10 AMENDING SECTION 20-4-104, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

11  
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13  
14 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Alternative teacher credentialing.** (1) The superintendent of public  
15 instruction shall issue a class 2 standard certificate to an applicant who meets all of the following requirements:

16 (a) the applicant holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university;  
17 (b) the applicant passes a criminal history background check in the manner prescribed under rules  
18 adopted by the board of public education;

19 (c) the applicant completes coursework related to Indian education for all, pursuant to Title 20,  
20 chapter 1, part 5, that is required of other class 2 standard certificate applicants under rules adopted by the  
21 board of public education; and

22 (d) the applicant has successfully completed an alternative teacher certification AND ENDORSEMENT  
23 program that includes the following:

24 (i) subject-area content training in the area in which the applicant seeks to be ~~licensed~~ CERTIFIED  
25 AND ENDORSED; and

26 (ii) pedagogical training that covers effective instructional delivery, classroom management and  
27 organization, assessment, instructional design, and professional learning and leadership.

28 (2) An individual who successfully completes an alternative teacher certification AND ENDORSEMENT

1 program and who is granted a class 2 standard certificate under this section is authorized to teach the subjects  
2 and grade levels corresponding with the individual's completed alternative teacher certification AND  
3 ENDORSEMENT program.

4 (3) The state shall treat an individual who successfully earns a class 2 standard certificate under  
5 this section in the same manner as an individual who completes a traditional teacher preparation program and  
6 is issued a class 2 standard certificate, including following the same process for ~~converting the class 2 standard~~  
7 ~~certificate to a class 1 professional certificate~~ CERTIFICATIONS UNDER 20-4-106 THAT REQUIRE A CLASS 2 STANDARD  
8 CERTIFICATE AS A PREREQUISITE TO OTHER CERTIFICATIONS.

9 (4) For purposes of this part, THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS APPLY:

10 (A) ~~“alternative~~ ALTERNATIVE teacher certification AND ENDORSEMENT program” means a teacher  
11 certification AND ENDORSEMENT program that ~~is not provided by a public or private institution of higher education,~~  
12 meets the requirements of this section, and has been approved by the BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION UPON  
13 RECOMMENDATION OF THE superintendent of public instruction. The ~~requirements for~~ approval of an alternative  
14 teacher certification AND ENDORSEMENT program may NOT REQUIRE:

15 (I) AFFILIATION WITH OR STATUS AS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

16 (II) A SUPERVISED TEACHING EXPERIENCE;

17 (III) LICENSURE FROM ANOTHER STATE; OR

18 (IV) ~~be no more burdensome than as~~ ANY CHARACTERISTIC EXCEPT AS provided in this section.

19 (B) "CERTIFICATION AND ENDORSEMENT" MEANS THE CLASSIFICATIONS OF TEACHER AND SPECIALIST

20 CERTIFICATES AND THE CORRESPONDING SUBJECT FIELDS FOR ENDORSEMENT ACCORDING TO THE BOARD OF

21 EDUCATION POLICY FOR CERTIFICATION ENDORSEMENT AS REFERENCED IN 20-4-106.

22

23 **Section 2.** Section 20-4-104, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"20-4-104. Qualifications.** (1) A person may be certified as a teacher when the person satisfies the  
25 following qualifications. The person:

26 (a) is 18 years of age or older;

27 (b) is of good moral and professional character;

28 (c) (i) has completed the teacher education program of a unit of the Montana university system or

1 an essentially equivalent program at an accredited institution of equal rank and standing as that of any unit of  
2 the Montana university system, and the training is evidenced by at least a bachelor's degree and a certification  
3 of the completion of the teacher education program, except as provided for in 20-4-106(1)(d);

4 (ii) possesses a current certification from the national board for professional teaching standards; ~~or~~

5 (iii) possesses a current educator license from another state or country and successful experience  
6 as determined by the board of public education; or

7 (iv) has completed the alternative teacher certification AND ENDORSEMENT program provided for in  
8 [section 1]; and

9 (d) has subscribed to the following oath or affirmation before an officer authorized by law to  
10 administer oaths:

11 "I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support The Constitution of the United States of America and  
12 The Constitution of the State of Montana."

13 (2) Any person may be certified as a specialist when the person satisfies the requirements of  
14 subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) and the requirement for a specialist certificate provided in 20-4-106(2)."

15  
16 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
17 integral part of Title 20, chapter 4, part 1, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 4, part 1, apply to [section 1].

18  
19 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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