

18A: 6-76.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Teachers--provisional
certification)

NJSA: 18A:6-76.1

LAWS OF: 1992

CHAPTER: 127

BILL NO: A1543

SPONSOR(S) Russo and Collins

DATE INTRODUCED: June 1, 1992

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Education

SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage
according to Governor's recommendations denoted by asterisks

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: June 25, 1992 Re-enacted 10-15-92

SENATE: July 23, 1992 Re-enacted 10-19-92

DATE OF APPROVAL: October 23, 1992

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: Yes

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

See newspaper clipping-attached.
KBG:pp

[FIRST REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 1543

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 1992

By Assemblymen ROCCO, COLLINS and
Assemblywoman Weber

1 AN ACT concerning the certification of school teachers.

2

3 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
4 *State of New Jersey:*

5 1. The State Board of Education shall delay until September 1,
6 1993 the implementation of regulations which revise the
7 certification standards for new school teachers to require the
8 provisional certification of college graduates who have completed
9 an approved teacher preparation program pending the fulfillment
10 of a first year teacher induction program and a favorable
11 evaluation.

12 12. a. By November 1, 1992, colleges shall notify all students
13 enrolled in teacher education programs of the details and
14 requirements of the provisional certificate and induction program.

15 b. By November 1, 1992, the Department of Education shall
16 provide all public school districts with a standard plan to
17 implement the induction program that districts may choose to
18 submit, instead of developing individual plans.

19 c. By February 1, 1993, each district shall submit a
20 board-approved plan to the Department of Education.

21 d. The Department of Education shall coordinate county or
22 regional training programs for mentors beginning in the 1993-94
23 school year.¹

24 ¹[2.] 3.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

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29 Delays extension of provisional certification for all first year
30 teachers until September 1, 1993.

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly amendment adopted in accordance with Governor's
recommendations September 14, 1992.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1543

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STATEMENT

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17 In October of 1990 the State Board of Education issued
18 regulations which extended the provisional certification standards
19 now required of "alternate route" teacher applicants to all first
20 year teachers even college graduates who have completed an
21 approved teacher preparation program. All beginning teachers
22 would be required to complete a one year on-the-job training
23 program, although "alternate route" teachers would undergo
24 additional training. All beginning teachers would need to receive
25 a favorable evaluation before being eligible to receive a standard
26 certification. These regulations, which were to become effective
27 on September 1, 1992, require school districts to establish a
28 training plan approved by the Department of Education. As a
29 result of this new training requirement a number of school
30 districts have indicated that they will not be hiring first year
31 teachers this year. This situation has created a great hardship
32 for recent college graduates with education majors who already
33 face a tough job market.

34 This bill will delay the implementation of the regulations for
35 one year to allow the Legislature time to study the proposed
36 certification changes and determine if they are in the best
37 interests of the State.

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42 Delays extension of provisional certification for all first year
43 teachers until September 1, 1993.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1543

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 1992

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1543.

This bill will delay by one year the implementation of regulations by the Department of Education which would require all first year teachers to complete a one year on-the-job training program, and receive a favorable evaluation, before they would be eligible to receive a standard teaching certificate. Currently, only "alternate route" teachers are required to fulfill provisional certification standards.

The new regulations were to become effective on September 1, 1992 and the bill delays the effective date until September 1, 1993.

A representative from the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, New Jersey School Boards Association, Ramapo Indian Hills Education Association, and New Jersey Education Association testified in favor of the bill. A representative from the New Jersey Department of Education was in opposition of the bill.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1543

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JULY 9, 1992

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 1543 without committee amendments.

This bill will delay the implementation of certain regulations dealing with provisional certification of school teachers for one year to allow the Legislature time to study the proposed certification changes and determine if they are in the best interests of the State.

In October of 1990 the State Board of Education issued regulations which extended the provisional certification standards now required of "alternate route" teacher applicants to all first year teachers, including college graduates who have completed an approved teacher preparation program. All beginning teachers would be required to complete a one year on-the-job training program, and "alternate route" teachers would undergo additional training. These regulations were to become effective on September 1, 1992, and would have required school districts to establish a training plan approved by the Department of Education.

This bill is identical to Senate, No. 939 of 1992.

September 10, 1992

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1543

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 1543 with my objections for reconsideration.

This bill would delay for one year, implementation of State Board of Education regulations requiring that school districts provide a job induction program for their first-year teachers. In the past, teachers have received permanent certification upon completion of college teacher training programs. The State Board regulations provide a one-year provisional certificate to new teachers. During this first year, they would work in the schools, teamed with veteran teachers, or "mentors," who would provide them guidance and support. The program provides new teachers with assistance and allows schools to evaluate their performance before awarding them lifetime certification.

The induction program is an important step for school children and citizens who support public education. By providing each new teacher with an experienced mentor, the program will help assure that children who are taught by novice teachers receive a sound education. The program will also provide accountability by requiring new teachers to serve their first year under probationary licenses while their performance is rigorously evaluated. Those who perform well, as the vast majority do, will earn permanent certificates. Those few who do not perform adequately, even with the help of a mentor, will not receive a lifetime certificate to teach. The public has a right to the type of assurances this program provides regarding the quality of teachers in our public schools.

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As significant as my personal belief, regarding the benefits of this program, is the State Board of Education's support and commitment to this program. It is the State Board in New Jersey which is vested with the responsibility to set the standards for employment in the public schools. The State Board has done an excellent job in that regard and its programs have resulted in national recognition of New Jersey's teacher education reforms. The Board adopted the induction program regulations in 1989 after extensive study and public input. The Board recently reiterated its commitment to prompt implementation of the induction program which it had already delayed a year to ensure absolute fairness to students enrolled in teacher education programs. Legislative intervention to further "study" the program is unwarranted.

I am, however, mindful of the concerns raised by the proponents of this bill and the overwhelming legislative support it received. I am therefore reluctantly willing to agree to the one year delay in implementation of the program if that delay comes with assurances that the program will be implemented in September 1993. In order to be confident that next Spring we will not be faced with another request to delay the program, I am recommending that the Legislature adopt amendments to this bill which would address many of the objections raised to the program's implementation this year. These include claims that schools received insufficient notice to prepare to implement the new program; claims that graduating students were unaware of the requirements; and claims that training was needed for mentors. Additionally, a number of districts simply did not develop plans and refused to consider new graduates for vacancies.

The amendments I am recommending will assure that by the implementation date of September 1993, all districts will be aware of the program requirements and each district will have an approved plan in place so that new graduates will be able to compete for

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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vacancies. Further, these amendments will set deadlines for colleges to notify students in teacher education programs of the provisional certificate requirements and will provide for county or regional training for mentors. Thus, these amendments will assure that the program can be successfully implemented by September 1993.

Despite the difficulties perceived by some school districts in implementing the program by September 1992, the Department of Education has advised me that nearly 400 new teachers have been hired for this September and the school systems which have hired them are ready to implement induction programs for these teachers. I commend these school systems for their leadership and hope that even if the requirement for an induction program is delayed, that these schools will implement the program on a voluntary basis. I would further ask that the Department of Education take steps to recognize their leadership in some formal way.

We have already seen a delay in the induction program and this bill will provide for another year's delay. In light of the value of this program to improving educational quality and accountability, the children and the public deserve some assurance that by September 1993, the program will be implemented; my recommended amendments would provide that assurance.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 1543 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 1, Section 2, Line 12: Add New Section 2 as follows:

a. By November 1, 1992, colleges shall notify all students enrolled in teacher education programs of the details and requirements of the provisional certificate and induction program.

b. By November 1, 1992, the Department of Education shall provide all public school districts with a standard plan to implement the induction program that districts may choose to submit, instead of developing individual plans.

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c. By February 1, 1993, each district shall submit a Board-approved plan to the Department of Education.

d. The Department of Education shall coordinate county or regional training programs for mentors beginning in the 1993-94 school year.

Page 1, Section 2, Line 2: Delete "2." insert "3."

Respectfully,

/s/ James J. Florio

GOVERNOR

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ M. Robert DeCotiis

Chief Counsel to the Governor