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SENATE BILL 5238

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Senators Schmidt, McAuliffe, Carlson, Roach, Esser and Eide

Read first time 01/20/2003. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to classified staff in alternative certification  
2 programs; amending RCW 28A.660.040; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.660.040 and 2001 c 158 s 5 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            Partnership grants funded under this chapter shall operate one to  
7 three specific route programs. Successful completion of the program  
8 shall make a candidate eligible for residency teacher certification.  
9 For route one and two candidates, the mentor of the teacher candidate  
10 at the school and the supervisor of the teacher candidate from the  
11 higher education teacher preparation program must both agree that the  
12 teacher candidate has successfully completed the program. For route  
13 three candidates, the mentor of the teacher candidate shall make the  
14 determination that the candidate has successfully completed the  
15 program.

16            (1) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route one  
17 programs shall enroll currently employed classified instructional  
18 employees with transferable associate degrees seeking residency teacher  
19 certification with endorsements in special education, bilingual

1 education, or English as a second language. For a maximum of two  
2 years, a route one candidate shall retain his or her employee status  
3 during the time the candidate is participating in the program. It is  
4 anticipated that candidates enrolled in this route will complete both  
5 their baccalaureate degree and requirements for residency certification  
6 in two years or less, including a mentored internship to be completed  
7 in the final year. In addition, partnership programs shall uphold  
8 entry requirements for candidates that include:

9 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including  
10 three years of successful student interaction and leadership as a  
11 classified instructional employee;

12 (b) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam, when  
13 available; and

14 (c) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness  
15 requirements adopted by rule for teachers.

16 (2) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route two  
17 programs shall enroll currently employed classified staff with  
18 baccalaureate degrees seeking residency teacher certification in  
19 subject matter shortage areas and areas with shortages due to  
20 geographic location. For a maximum of two years, a route one candidate  
21 shall retain his or her employee status during the time the candidate  
22 is participating in the program. Candidates enrolled in this route  
23 must complete a mentored internship complemented by flexibly scheduled  
24 training and coursework offered at a local site, such as a school or  
25 educational service district, or online or via video-conference over  
26 the K-20 network, in collaboration with the partnership program's  
27 higher education partner. In addition, partnership grant programs  
28 shall uphold entry requirements for candidates that include:

29 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including  
30 three years of successful student interaction and leadership as  
31 classified staff;

32 (b) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution  
33 of higher education. The individual's college or university grade  
34 point average may be considered as a selection factor;

35 (c) Successful completion of the content test, once the state  
36 content test is available;

37 (d) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness  
38 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

1 (e) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam, when  
2 available.

3 (3) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route three  
4 programs shall enroll individuals with baccalaureate degrees, who are  
5 not employed in the district at the time of application, or who hold  
6 emergency substitute certificates. When selecting candidates for  
7 certification through route three, districts shall give priority to  
8 individuals who are seeking residency teacher certification in subject  
9 matter shortage areas or shortages due to geographic locations. For  
10 route three only, the districts may include additional candidates in  
11 nonshortage subject areas if the candidates are seeking endorsements  
12 with a secondary grade level designation as defined by rule by the  
13 state board of education. The districts shall disclose to candidates  
14 in nonshortage subject areas available information on the demand in  
15 those subject areas. Cohorts of candidates for this route shall attend  
16 an intensive summer teaching academy, followed by a full year employed  
17 by a district in a mentored internship, followed, if necessary, by a  
18 second summer teaching academy. In addition, partnership programs  
19 shall uphold entry requirements for candidates that include:

20 (a) Five years' experience in the work force;

21 (b) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution  
22 of higher education. The individual's grade point average may be  
23 considered as a selection factor;

24 (c) Successful completion of the content test, once the state  
25 content test is available;

26 (d) External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated  
27 successful experience with students or children, such as ((~~references~~  
28 ~~[reference]~~)) reference letters and letters of support from previous  
29 employers;

30 (e) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness  
31 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

32 (f) Successful passage of statewide basic skills exams, when  
33 available.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act expires June 30, 2005.

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