WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1992

ENROLLED
Committee Substitute for
SENATE BILL NO. 550
(By Senator Wagner)

PASSED March 6, 1992
In Effect 10 days from Passage
AN ACT to amend and reenact section two-a, article three, chapter eighteen-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to establishing requirements for certification in educational administration.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section two-a, article three, chapter eighteen-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3. TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

§18A-3-2a. Authority of state superintendent to issue certificates; kinds of certificates.

1 In accordance with state board of education rules for the education of professional educators adopted after consultation with the secretary of education and the arts, the state superintendent of schools may issue certificates valid in the public schools of the state:
Provided, That a certificate shall not be issued to any person who is not a citizen of the United States, is not of good moral character and physically, mentally and emotionally qualified to perform the duties for which the certification would be granted and who has not attained the age of eighteen years on or before the first day of October of the year in which the certificate is issued: Provided, however, That an exchange teacher from a foreign country or an alien person who meets the requirements to teach may be granted a permit to teach within the public schools of the state.

Certificates authorized to be issued include:

(1) Professional teaching certificates. — A professional teaching certificate for teaching in the public schools may be issued to a person who:

(A) Has at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education in this state, has completed a program for the education of teachers which meets the requirements approved by the state board of education or has met equivalent standards at institutions in other states and has passed appropriate state board approved basic skills and subject matter tests or has completed three years of successful experience within the last seven years in the area for which licensure is being sought; or

(B) Has at least a bachelor’s degree in a discipline taught in the public schools from an accredited institution of higher education, has passed appropriate state board approved basic skills and subject matter tests or has completed three years of successful experience within the last seven years in the area for which licensure is being sought, has completed an alternative program for teacher education approved by the state board and is recommended for a certificate by the chairperson of the professional support team of the persons alternative program or the state superintendent based on documentation submitted.

The certificate shall be endorsed to indicate the grade level or levels or areas of specialization in which the person is certified to teach or to serve in the public
schools. The initial professional certificate shall be
issued provisionally for a period of three years from
the date of issuance and may be converted to a
professional certificate valid for five years subject to
successful completion of a beginning teacher intern-
ship, if applicable, or renewed subject to rules adopted
by the state board.

(2) Professional administrative certificate. — A
professional administrative certificate, endorsed for
serving in the public schools, with specific endorse-
ment as a principal, vocational administrator, supervi-
sor of instructions or superintendent, may be issued to
a person who has completed requirements all to be
approved by the state board as follows: For a master's
degree from an institution of higher education accred-
ited to offer a master's degree, has successfully
completed an approved program for administrative
certification, developed by the state board of education
in cooperation with the governing boards of the
university of West Virginia system and the state
college system, has successfully completed education
and training in evaluation skills through the center for
professional development, or equivalent education and
training in evaluation skills, and three years of
management level experience: Provided, That anyone
having received a certificate during the period from
the thirtieth day of August, one thousand nine hun-
dred ninety, until the effective date of this bill without
having met the above requirements shall complete
those requirements within five years after the effec-
tive date of this bill: Provided, however, That any
person serving in the position of dean of students on
the effective date of this section shall not be required
to hold a professional administrative certificate.
Beginning the first day of September, one thousand
nine hundred ninety-two, the initial professional
administrative certificate shall be issued provisionally
for a period of five years. This certificate may be
converted to a professional administrative certificate
valid for five years or renewed, subject to the regula-
tions of the state board.
(3) Paraprofessional certificate. — A paraprofessional certificate may be issued to a person who has completed thirty-six semester hours of post-secondary education or its equivalent in subjects directly related to performance of the job, all approved by the state board, and can demonstrate the proficiencies to perform duties as required of a paraprofessional as defined in section eight, article four of this chapter.

(4) Other certificates; permits. — Other certificates and permits may be issued, subject to the approval of the state board, to persons who do not qualify for the professional or paraprofessional certificate. Such certificates or permits shall not be given permanent status and persons holding such shall meet renewal requirements provided by law and by regulation, unless the state board declares certain of these certificates to be the equivalent of the professional certificate.

Within the category of other certificates and permits, the state superintendent may issue certificates for persons to serve in the public schools as athletic coaches or other extracurricular activities coaches whose duties may include the supervision of students, subject to the following limitations: (A) Such person shall be employed under a contract with the county board of education which specifies the duties to be performed, which specifies a rate of pay equivalent to the rate of pay for professional educators in the district who accept similar duties as extra duty assignments and which provides for liability insurance associated with the activity: Provided, That such persons shall not be considered employees of the board for salary and benefit purposes other than as specified in the contract; (B) a currently employed certified professional educator has not applied for the position; and (C) such person completes an orientation program designed and approved in accordance with state board rules which shall be adopted no later than the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred ninety-one.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the day of April, 1992.

Governor