

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1135**

Introduced by Vargas, 7.

Read first time January 18, 2018

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to teachers; to adopt the Alternative
- 2 Certification for Quality Teachers Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Sections 1 to 4 of this act shall be known and may be  
2 cited as the Alternative Certification for Quality Teachers Act.

3           Sec. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

4           (1) Like many other states, Nebraska is facing a teacher and  
5 substitute teacher shortage;

6           (2) Mandatory training days and family leave policies draw many  
7 regular teachers out of their classrooms, causing schools to hire  
8 substitute teachers;

9           (3) The Internal Revenue Service requires a separation period for  
10 recently retired teachers who may otherwise be interested in returning to  
11 the classroom as a substitute teacher;

12           (4) In the fall of 2016, the State Department of Education conducted  
13 a teacher vacancy survey of all 450 school districts, educational service  
14 units, and nonpublic school systems;

15           (5) Such survey showed that the state continues to have hundreds of  
16 unfilled teaching positions across the state;

17           (6) The most widely reported solutions for filling teaching  
18 vacancies were to hire an individual who holds a transitional,  
19 provisional, or temporary teaching certificate; and

20           (7) Filling teaching vacancies and having an adequate number of  
21 substitute teachers is imperative for delivering a high quality learning  
22 experience to students.

23           Sec. 3. (1) In addition to certificates issued pursuant to sections  
24 79-806 to 79-815, a certificate to teach in the public schools shall be  
25 granted by the State Board of Education to any person in good standing  
26 who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state and who  
27 annually completes the requirements to maintain either the certification  
28 from such other state or certification pursuant to rules and regulations  
29 of the board.

30           (2) Issuance of a certificate to teach in the public schools  
31 pursuant to this section shall be subject to a criminal history record

1 information check pursuant to section 79-814.01 and any rules and  
2 regulations adopted and promulgated by the board to carry out this  
3 section.

4       Sec. 4. (1) In addition to certificates issued pursuant to sections  
5 79-806 to 79-815, a temporary certificate to teach in the public schools  
6 may be granted by the State Board of Education to any person who has:

7       (a) Presented to the board a valid bachelor's degree, or higher,  
8 from an accredited degree-awarding college or university;

9       (b) Passed the basic skills examination and appropriate subject area  
10 examination as designated by the board; and

11       (c) Enrolled in an alternative teacher certification program  
12 approved by the board.

13       (2) Any temporary certificate to teach in the public schools issued  
14 pursuant to this section shall be valid for a period not to exceed two  
15 years, during which the holder of such temporary certificate must obtain  
16 a valid certificate to teach in the public schools through an alternative  
17 teacher certification program approved by the board.

18       (3) Issuance of a temporary certificate to teach in the public  
19 schools pursuant to this section shall be subject to a criminal history  
20 record information check pursuant to section 79-814.01 and any rules and  
21 regulations adopted and promulgated by the board to carry out this  
22 section.