

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to teacher certification; amending s.  
 3           1012.56, F.S.; providing alternative requirements for  
 4           earning a professional educator certificate that  
 5           covers certain grades; providing an effective date.

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 7   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 9           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section  
 10   1012.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11           1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

12           (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

13           (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional  
 14   certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant  
 15   who meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2) or,  
 16   for a professional certificate covering grades 6 through 12, any  
 17   applicant who:

18           1. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)-(h).

19           2. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of  
 20   science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

21           3. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the  
 22   advanced degree.

23           4. Is rated highly effective as determined by the  
 24   teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part  
 25   on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized  
 26   assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International

27 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate  
 28 examination.

29 5. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional  
 30 education competency examination required by state board rule.  
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32 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years  
 33 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph  
 34 (2) (g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of  
 35 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are  
 36 employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time  
 37 period may continue to be employed through the end of the school  
 38 year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall  
 39 not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a  
 40 position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond  
 41 this time period if the individual has not met the requirement  
 42 of paragraph (2) (g). The State Board of Education shall adopt  
 43 rules to allow the department to extend the validity period of a  
 44 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the  
 45 professional certificate, not including the requirement in  
 46 paragraph (2) (g), were not completed due to the serious illness  
 47 or injury of the applicant or other extraordinary extenuating  
 48 circumstances. The department shall reissue the temporary  
 49 certificate for 2 additional years upon approval by the  
 50 Commissioner of Education. A written request for reissuance of  
 51 the certificate shall be submitted by the district school  
 52 superintendent, the governing authority of a university lab

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53 | school, the governing authority of a state-supported school, or  
54 | the governing authority of a private school.

55 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.