

1 The Senate Education Committee offered the following amendment:

2 Amend HB 590 by inserting "to change certain provisions regarding the regulation of
3 certificated professional personnel;" between "as" and "to" on line 2 of page 1.

4 By inserting "to change certain provisions regarding specific course requirements; to change
5 certain provisions regarding paraprofessionals and aides;" between "circumstances;" and "to"
6 on line 3 of page 1.

7 By striking lines 8, 9, and 10 of page 1 and inserting in their place the following:

8 "secondary education, is amended by striking Code Section 20-2-200, relating to regulation
9 of certified professional personnel and inserting in its place new Code Sections 20-2-200
10 and 20-2-200.1 to read as follows:

11 '20-2-200.

12 (a) The Professional Standards Commission shall provide, by regulation, for certifying and
13 classifying all certificated professional personnel employed in the public schools of this
14 state. No such personnel shall be employed in the public schools of this state unless they
15 hold certificates issued by the commission certifying their qualifications and classification
16 in accordance with such regulations. The commission shall establish such number of
17 classifications of other certificated professional personnel as it may find reasonably
18 necessary or desirable for the operation of the public schools; provided, however, that such
19 classifications shall be based only upon academic, technical, and professional training,
20 experience, and competency of such personnel. The commission is authorized to provide
21 for denying a certificate to an applicant, suspending or revoking a certificate, or otherwise
22 disciplining the holder of a certificate for good cause after an investigation is held and
23 notice and an opportunity for a hearing are provided the certificate holder or applicant in
24 accordance with subsection (d) of Code Section 20-2-984.5. The commission shall
25 designate and define the various classifications of professional personnel employed in the
26 public schools of this state that shall be required to be certificated under this Code section.
27 Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the term "certificated professional
28 personnel" is defined as all professional personnel certificated by the commission and
29 county or regional librarians.

30 (b) The Professional Standards Commission shall establish rules and regulations for
31 appropriate requirements and procedures to ensure high-quality certification standards for

1 all Georgia educators while facilitating the interstate mobility of out-of-state certified
2 educators.

3 (1) Requirements established for initial certification applicants new to the profession, to
4 include out-of-state program completers with or without certificates and with no teaching
5 experience, may include, but are not limited to, demonstrated satisfactory proficiency in
6 the following: a test of broad general knowledge; a test of specific subject matter content
7 or other professional knowledge appropriate to the applicant's field of certification;
8 computer skill competency; standards of ethical conduct; and course work in the
9 identification and education of children who have special educational needs.

10 (2) Requirements established for holders of valid, professional out-of-state certificates
11 applying for their first Georgia certificate may include, but are not limited to the
12 following: computer skill competency; course work in the identification and education
13 of children who have special educational needs; recency of study; and standards of ethical
14 conduct. These requirements may be completed during the validity period of the first
15 Georgia certificate. At the time of application for the first Georgia certificate,
16 satisfactory proficiency in subject matter content appropriate to the applicant's field of
17 certification may be determined based on Professional Standards Commission approved
18 tests or combinations of successful teaching experience and academic, technical, and
19 professional preparation as outlined in rules of the Professional Standards Commission.

20 (3) Requirements for certification renewal shall be established to foster on going
21 professional learning, enhance student achievement, and verify standards of ethical
22 conduct. Such requirements may include, but are not limited to, professional learning
23 related to school improvement plans or the applicant's field of certification and
24 background checks. Individuals holding a valid Georgia life certificate or a valid
25 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certificate shall be deemed to have
26 met state renewal requirements except those related to background checks.

27 (4) Requirements designating approved in-field assignment standards appropriate to the
28 applicant's field of certification shall be established to ensure that educators are assigned
29 to those areas for which they are properly prepared. These standards may be determined
30 based on reviews of state approved curriculum courses, state approved preparation
31 programs, and designated certificate fields.

32 (c) An individual who has received two unsatisfactory annual performance evaluations in
33 the previous five-year period pursuant to Code Section 20-2-210 shall not be entitled to a
34 renewable certificate prior to demonstrating that such performance deficiency has been
35 satisfactorily addressed, but such individual may apply to the commission for a
36 nonrenewable certificate.

1 ~~(b)(1) Before granting a renewable certificate to an applicant, the Professional Standards~~
2 ~~Commission shall require the applicant to demonstrate satisfactory proficiency on a test~~
3 ~~of specific subject matter or other professional knowledge appropriate to the applicant's~~
4 ~~field of certification.~~

5 ~~(2) Before granting a renewable certificate to an applicant, the commission is authorized~~
6 ~~to require the applicant to demonstrate satisfactory proficiency on a test of oral and~~
7 ~~written communication skills, a test of computer skill competency, and an assessment to~~
8 ~~demonstrate satisfactory on-the-job performance appropriate to the applicant's field of~~
9 ~~certification. Successful completion of the phase one InTech model training at a state~~
10 ~~educational technology training center or by a State Board of Education approved~~
11 ~~redelivery team shall be acceptable for certificate renewal purposes. The on-the-job~~
12 ~~performance of teachers shall be assessed by the instrument developed pursuant to Code~~
13 ~~Section 20-2-210. When used for initial renewable certification, the extended form~~
14 ~~version of such instrument shall be used with the following additional requirements: the~~
15 ~~applicant shall produce for the days to be observed a brief written lesson plan appropriate~~
16 ~~and sufficient for the demonstration of essential skills; the scheduling of observation~~
17 ~~periods and intervals between them shall be designed to allow the teacher an adequate~~
18 ~~opportunity to demonstrate the essential skills; at least one evaluator shall be external to~~
19 ~~the school system in which the assessment is taking place and each evaluator is certified~~
20 ~~by the commission as qualified to administer the assessment; on-the-job performance~~
21 ~~shall be evaluated on criteria set by the commission which will ensure demonstration of~~
22 ~~effective teaching practices.~~

23 ~~(3) An applicant shall be exempted from the written planning portion of the on-the-job~~
24 ~~assessment requirement pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection if:~~

25 ~~(A) The applicant has held a professional teaching or service certificate issued by any~~
26 ~~state in the United States at the baccalaureate degree level or higher and has~~
27 ~~satisfactorily performed appropriate duties on a full-time basis for at least five of the~~
28 ~~past eight years in regionally accredited private schools of this state or another state, or~~
29 ~~an accrediting agency with criteria and procedures equivalent to or greater than a~~
30 ~~regional accrediting association as determined solely by the Professional Standards~~
31 ~~Commission, or in public schools of this state or another state, or a combination~~
32 ~~thereof; or~~

33 ~~(B) The applicant has held a professional leadership certificate issued by any state in~~
34 ~~the United States at a level above the master's degree and has satisfactorily performed~~
35 ~~appropriate leadership duties on a full-time basis for at least five of the past eight years~~
36 ~~in regionally accredited private schools of this state or another state, or an accrediting~~
37 ~~agency with criteria and procedures equivalent to or greater than a regional accrediting~~

1 ~~association as determined solely by the Professional Standards Commission, or in~~
2 ~~public schools of this state or another state, or a combination thereof.~~

3 ~~(4) Exemptions authorized pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection shall not apply~~
4 ~~to those applicants who have taken the on-the-job assessment required for certification~~
5 ~~more than five times. Any person who qualifies for the exemption granted under~~
6 ~~subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3) of this subsection shall receive a nonrenewable~~
7 ~~certificate valid for a maximum of three years. During those three years, said person shall~~
8 ~~be eligible for a renewable certificate at such time said person demonstrates satisfactory~~
9 ~~performance on the nonwritten portion of the required certification assessment. This~~
10 ~~exemption shall in no way affect other certification requirements of this article or the~~
11 ~~annual performance evaluation required pursuant to Code Section 20-2-210.~~

12 ~~(5) Before granting an initial renewable certificate to an applicant, the commission is~~
13 ~~authorized to require the applicant to demonstrate satisfactory proficiency on a test of~~
14 ~~broad general knowledge.~~

15 ~~(6) On any test or assessment required as a condition for receiving any renewable~~
16 ~~certificate, each applicant shall have at least three opportunities to demonstrate the~~
17 ~~required proficiency. Each applicant currently employed by a local unit of administration~~
18 ~~who initially does not pass any required tests or assessments may request and thereby~~
19 ~~shall be provided staff development assistance in the areas of identified deficiencies. An~~
20 ~~applicant must achieve the required passing score on any of the required tests only once~~
21 ~~for each certification level and field.~~

22 ~~(7) An individual holding a valid life certificate is exempt from the provisions of this~~
23 ~~subsection for that certificate field.~~

24 ~~(8) An individual who has received two unsatisfactory annual performance evaluations~~
25 ~~in the previous five-year period pursuant to Code Section 20-2-210 shall not be entitled~~
26 ~~to a renewable certificate prior to demonstrating that such performance deficiency has~~
27 ~~been satisfactorily addressed, but such individual may apply to the commission for a~~
28 ~~nonrenewable certificate.~~

29 ~~(9) Before granting a renewable certificate required for teaching or for administering or~~
30 ~~supervising a school system, school, or school program to an applicant who holds a valid~~
31 ~~renewable certificate at the time of application, the commission shall require such~~
32 ~~applicant to demonstrate that he or she has worked as a teacher in a classroom for not less~~
33 ~~than five days during each school year preceding the expiration of such applicant's~~
34 ~~certificate or has completed a teacher training course approved by the commission.~~

35 ~~(b.1) Upon certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, an~~
36 ~~applicant shall be deemed to have met state renewal requirements for the life of the~~
37 ~~teacher's national certificate.~~

1 ~~(c)(1) The Professional Standards Commission shall grant a renewable certificate at the~~
2 ~~four-year level in a teaching field to an applicant who has not completed a teacher~~
3 ~~preparation program; provided, however, that such applicant meets the following~~
4 ~~conditions:~~

5 ~~(A) Is the holder of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or~~
6 ~~university in a subject area field corresponding to an appropriate subject area~~
7 ~~certification classification established pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section;~~

8 ~~(B) Has satisfactorily completed a one-year supervised classroom internship involving~~
9 ~~the appropriate teaching field;~~

10 ~~(C) Has obtained satisfactory results on tests and assessments pursuant to subsection~~
11 ~~(b) of this Code section otherwise required of applicants for such certification; and~~

12 ~~(D) Has satisfied any additional requirements or standards of the alternative~~
13 ~~certification program established by rules or regulations of the Professional Standards~~
14 ~~Commission.~~

15 ~~(2) The Professional Standards Commission shall establish rules and regulations to~~
16 ~~implement the requirements of this subsection as soon as practical.~~

17 ~~(d)(1) The Professional Standards Commission shall grant a renewable certificate at the~~
18 ~~five-year level in a teaching field to an applicant who did not complete an undergraduate~~
19 ~~teacher preparation program; provided, however, that such applicant meets the following~~
20 ~~conditions:~~

21 ~~(A) Is the holder of a master's degree or higher level degree from a regionally~~
22 ~~accredited college or university in a subject area field corresponding to an appropriate~~
23 ~~subject area certification classification established pursuant to subsection (a) of this~~
24 ~~Code section;~~

25 ~~(B) Has satisfactorily completed a one-year supervised classroom internship involving~~
26 ~~the appropriate teaching field;~~

27 ~~(C) Has obtained satisfactory results on tests and assessments pursuant to subsection~~
28 ~~(b) of this Code section otherwise required of applicants for such certification; and~~

29 ~~(D) Has satisfied any additional requirements or standards of the alternative~~
30 ~~certification program established by rules or regulations of the Professional Standards~~
31 ~~Commission.~~

32 ~~(2) The Professional Standards Commission shall establish rules and regulations to~~
33 ~~implement the requirements of this subsection as soon as practical.~~

34 (d) No applicant who is under review by the commission shall be allowed to withdraw his
35 or her application for a certificate, permit, or other certification document without the
36 written consent of the commission. The commission shall retain its authority over those
37 applicants to proceed with the denial of the certificate, permit, or other certification

1 document upon any ground provided by law, or to enter an order denying the certificate,
 2 permit, or other certification document upon any ground provided by law. The suspension
 3 or expiration of any certificate, permit, or certification document, or its surrender without
 4 the written consent of the commission, shall not deprive the commission of its authority to
 5 do any of the following:

6 (1) Institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the holder of a certificate,
 7 permit, or other certification document upon any ground provided by law;

8 (2) Enter an order suspending or revoking the certificate, permit, or other certification
 9 document; or

10 (3) Issue an admonition to the holder of a certificate, permit, or other certification
 11 document.

12 (e)(1) The Professional Standards Commission shall charge the following fees to persons
 13 who file applications with the commission under its regulations adopted pursuant to the
 14 authority of this Code section:

- 15 (A) For an applicant for initial certification who is not currently employed
 16 in Georgia public or private schools \$ 20.00
- 17 (B) For an applicant for initial certification who is not a graduate of an
 18 accredited education program from a Georgia college or university 20.00
- 19 (C) For an applicant for a higher certificate when the applicant then holds
 20 a Georgia certificate but who is not currently employed in Georgia public or
 21 private schools 20.00
- 22 (D) For an applicant for a certificate which adds a field or which endorses
 23 a certificate but who is not currently employed in Georgia public or private
 24 schools 20.00
- 25 (E) For an applicant for a conditional certificate 20.00
- 26 (F) For an applicant for the renewal of any certificate if the applicant is not
 27 currently employed by a public or private school in Georgia 20.00
- 28 (G) For evaluating transcripts where certificates are not issued and for
 29 issuing duplicate copies of certificates 20.00

30 (2) The fees provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be paid by an applicant
 31 by cashier’s check or money order as a condition for filing the application.

32 (3) The fees provided for in this subsection shall be paid by the commission into the
 33 general funds of the state. The commission shall adopt regulations to carry out the
 34 provisions of this subsection.

35 ~~(f) No applicant who is under review by the commission shall be allowed to withdraw his~~
 36 ~~or her application for a certificate, permit, or other certification document without the~~

1 ~~written consent of the commission. The commission shall retain its authority over those~~
 2 ~~applicants to proceed with the denial of the certificate, permit, or other certification~~
 3 ~~document upon any ground provided by law, or to enter an order denying the certificate,~~
 4 ~~permit, or other certification document upon any ground provided by law. The suspension~~
 5 ~~or expiration of any certificate, permit, or certification document, or its surrender without~~
 6 ~~the written consent of the commission, shall not deprive the commission of its authority to~~
 7 ~~do any of the following:~~

8 ~~(1) Institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the holder of a certificate,~~
 9 ~~permit, or other certification document upon any ground provided by law;~~

10 ~~(2) Enter an order suspending or revoking the certificate, permit, or other certification~~
 11 ~~document; or~~

12 ~~(3) Issue an admonition to the holder of a certificate, permit, or other certification~~
 13 ~~document.~~

14 ~~(g)(f)~~ As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the term "commission"
 15 means the Professional Standards Commission established under Part 10 of Article 17 of
 16 this chapter."

17 By striking ", required by Code Section 20-2-200," on lines 12 and 13 of page 1.

18 By inserting between lines 18 and 19 of page 1 the following:

19 **"SECTION 2.**

20 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 20-2-201, relating to specific
 21 course requirements, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 20-2-201 to read as
 22 follows:

23 '20-2-201.

24 ~~(a) Any person certified as a teacher, principal, or guidance counselor pursuant to Code~~
 25 ~~Section 20-2-200 shall have satisfactorily completed coursework of five or more quarter~~
 26 ~~hours, approved by the Professional Standards Commission, in the identification and~~
 27 ~~education of children who have special educational needs or shall have satisfactorily~~
 28 ~~completed an equivalent preparation in a staff development program designed for this~~
 29 ~~purpose, provided such staff development program shall have received prior approval of~~
 30 ~~the commission for that purpose. As used in this subsection, "children who have special~~
 31 ~~educational needs" is defined as gifted children and children who receive educational~~
 32 ~~services under an Individualized Education Plan. Teachers, principals, and guidance~~
 33 ~~counselors who have satisfactorily completed coursework in other states at least~~
 34 ~~comparable with the requirements of this Code section may be certified by the Professional~~

1 ~~Standards Commission. Those teachers, principals, and guidance counselors of other states,~~
 2 ~~those applicants completing noneducation programs who are otherwise eligible for~~
 3 ~~provisional certification in Georgia, and those teachers with lapsed Georgia teaching~~
 4 ~~certificates who are otherwise eligible for emergency certificates who would be employed~~
 5 ~~and certified in Georgia schools but lack the requirements of this subsection shall have a~~
 6 ~~period of time not to exceed two years from the date of employment to obtain the~~
 7 ~~prescribed training.~~

8 ~~(b) Universities and colleges having teacher preparation programs for grades kindergarten~~
 9 ~~through eight shall require, as a part of such teacher preparation requirements, a separate~~
 10 ~~course in health education and a separate course in physical education. The content of the~~
 11 ~~course in health education shall include general knowledge and attitudes in all critical areas~~
 12 ~~of health and shall include drug and alcohol abuse, smoking, and health education. The~~
 13 ~~required course in physical education shall contain knowledge, attitudes, and understanding~~
 14 ~~of how physical activity shall be integrated into the total lifestyle of an individual.~~

15 ~~(b.1)(a)~~ Universities and colleges having teacher preparation programs for grades
 16 pre-kindergarten through 12 shall require students in such programs to be proficient in
 17 computer and other instructional technology applications and skills including
 18 understanding desktop computers, their applications, integration with teaching and
 19 curriculum, and their utilization for individualized instruction and classroom management.
 20 There shall be a test to assess the proficiency of students enrolled in teacher preparation
 21 programs in computer and other instructional technology applications and skills.

22 ~~(c)(b)~~ Each local unit of administration shall be required to provide all professional
 23 personnel certificated by the Professional Standards Commission 12 clock hours of
 24 in-service or continuing education in each calendar year, or meet requirements of the
 25 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Such in-service programs shall be
 26 developed by the local unit of administration in conjunction with such agencies as regional
 27 educational service agencies, colleges and universities, and other appropriate organizations.
 28 These programs shall be designed to address identified needs determined by appropriate
 29 personnel evaluation instruments. These programs shall also focus on improving the skills
 30 of certificated personnel that directly relate to improving student achievement. Records of
 31 attendance shall be maintained by local units of administration and shall be monitored by
 32 appropriate Department of Education staff.'

33 **SECTION 3.**

34 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 20-2-204, relating to
 35 paraprofessionals and aides, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 20-2-204 to read
 36 as follows:

1 '20-2-204.

2 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

3 ~~(1) "Aide" is defined as a person who may have less than professional training and who~~
 4 ~~takes no independent actions and has no decision-making authority but performs routine~~
 5 ~~tasks assigned by higher certificated personnel. An aide who works as an instructional~~
 6 ~~aide shall possess the minimum of a high school diploma or a general educational~~
 7 ~~development (GED) diploma.~~

8 ~~(2) "Licensed personnel" is defined as paraprofessionals and aides.~~

9 ~~(3)~~(1) "Paraprofessional" is defined as a person who may have less than
 10 professional-level certification, who relates in role and function to a professional and
 11 does a portion of the professional's job or tasks under the supervision of the professional,
 12 and whose decision-making authority is limited and regulated by the professional. Such
 13 a paraprofessional shall possess the minimum of a high school diploma or a general
 14 educational development (GED) diploma. If assigned to positions governed by federal
 15 regulations, the paraprofessional must meet specified federal hiring requirements.

16 ~~(4)~~(2) "Permitted personnel" is defined as persons who may not qualify for professional
 17 certificates, including retired teachers, but who function in the educational programs in
 18 the same manner as certificated personnel. Such personnel qualify for their positions on
 19 the basis of experience rather than formal education.

20 (b) The Professional Standards Commission shall provide for the classification of all
 21 ~~licensed~~ certified and permitted personnel employed in the public schools of this state, and
 22 no such personnel shall be employed in the public schools of this state unless they meet
 23 such minimum criteria as developed by the commission; provided, however, that such
 24 classifications shall be based only upon academic, technical, and professional training and
 25 experience of such personnel. The commission is authorized to provide for revoking or
 26 denying a ~~license~~ certificate or permit for good cause after an investigation is conducted
 27 and notice and hearing is provided the ~~license~~ certificate or permit holder."

28 By striking line 19 of page 1 and inserting in its place the following:

29 **"SECTION 4."**