

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 87, *approved May 11, 2021*
Senate, No. 2832 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning substitute teachers ², amending P.L.2010, c.97
2 and P.L.2010, c.100,² and supplementing chapter 26 of Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. ²a.² Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the
9 contrary, a candidate for a substitute teacher credential who is
10 enrolled in a regionally accredited institution of higher education
11 ²and who is applying between the effective date of this act and June
12 30, 2023² shall present a minimum of 30 semester-hour credits
13 completed at the institution at the time of applying for the substitute
14 credential. ¹A candidate applying for a substitute teacher credential
15 under this section shall be at least 20 years of age. Nothing in this
16 section shall be construed to restrict school districts from
17 establishing additional criteria for the employment of substitute
18 teachers under this section.¹

19 ²b. It shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Education to
20 examine issues and develop recommendations as to whether the
21 timeline established pursuant to subsection a. of this section should
22 be extended to continue allowing candidates for substitute teaching
23 credentials to present a minimum of 30 semester-hour credits
24 completed at the time of applying for the substitute credential. The
25 commissioner shall issue a final report of findings and
26 recommendations to the Governor, to the Legislature pursuant to
27 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), and to the State Board
28 of Education no later than one year after the application period
29 expires on June 30, 2023.²

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31 ²2. Section 1 of P.L.2010, c.97 (C.18A:16-1.1a) is amended to
32 read as follows:

33 1. A vacant teaching position, or the position of a teacher who
34 is absent for an extended time period, shall not be filled in any
35 school year by one or more individuals holding a substitute
36 credential issued by the State Board of Education pursuant to the
37 provisions of N.J.S.18A:6-38 for a total amount of time exceeding
38 20 school days. The commissioner may grant an extension of up to
39 an additional 20 school days upon written application from the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted September 14, 2020.

²Senate floor amendments adopted January 11, 2021.

1 school district demonstrating the district's inability to hire an
2 appropriately certified teacher for the vacant position within the
3 original 20-day time limit. During a public health emergency
4 declared by the Governor pursuant to the "Emergency Health
5 Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), a vacant or
6 absent position may be filled by a holder of a substitute credential
7 for up to 40 school days and for an additional 20 school days upon
8 written application to the Commissioner of Education or the
9 commissioner's designee, demonstrating the district's inability to
10 hire an appropriately certified teacher within the 40-day time limit
11 and that the individuals are periodically monitored and supported by
12 the credential holder's supervisor.²

13 (cf: P.L.2010, c.97, s.1)

14
15 ²3. Section 2 of P.L.2010, c.100 (C.18A:16-1.1c) is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 2. A vacant teaching position, or the position of a teacher who
18 is absent for an extended time period, shall not be filled in any
19 school year by one or more individuals employed as substitute
20 teachers and holding a certificate of eligibility or a certificate of
21 eligibility with advanced standing issued by the State Board of
22 Examiners and working in an area not authorized by their
23 credentials for a total amount of time exceeding 20 school days.
24 The executive county superintendent of schools may grant an
25 extension of up to an additional 20 days upon written application
26 from the school district demonstrating the district's inability to hire
27 an appropriately certified teacher for the vacant position within the
28 original 20-day time limit. During a public health emergency
29 declared by the Governor pursuant to the "Emergency Health
30 Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), a vacant or
31 absent position may be filled by a holder of a certificate of
32 eligibility or a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing and
33 working in an area not authorized by their credentials for up to 40
34 school days and for an additional 20 school days upon written
35 application to the Commissioner of Education or the
36 commissioner's designee demonstrating the district's inability to
37 hire an appropriately certified teacher within the 40-day time limit
38 and that the individuals are periodically monitored and supported by
39 the credential holder's supervisor.²

40 (cf: P.L.2010, c.100, s.2)

41
42 ²[2.] 4.² This act shall take effect immediately.

43
44
45 Allows student enrolled in institution of higher education who
46 has completed 30 semester-hour credits to serve as substitute
47 teacher; extends time period substitute teacher may serve during
48 public health emergency.