

SENATE, No. 2016

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Extends validity of temporary instructional certificate issued to military spouse to one year; requires expedited processing of application by military spouse for NJ instructional certificate and reduced fees for military spouse to obtain certificate.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning teacher certification for military spouses and
2 amending and supplementing P.L.2013, c.68.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2013, c.68 (C.18A:26-2.14) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. As used in this section, "nonresident military spouse"
10 means a person (1) whose spouse is an active duty member of the
11 Armed Forces of the United States who is the subject of a military
12 transfer to New Jersey, and (2) who has left employment in another
13 state to accompany such spouse to New Jersey.

14 b. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
15 the State Board of Education shall establish a procedure for the
16 issuance of a temporary instructional certificate to a nonresident
17 military spouse that authorizes a board of education to employ the
18 nonresident military spouse as a teacher if, at the time of
19 application, the nonresident military spouse:

20 (1) Holds a valid and current license or certificate to teach
21 issued by another state for which there is an equivalent and
22 currently-issued New Jersey grade level or subject endorsement;

23 (2) Demonstrates competency in teaching in a manner
24 determined by the State Board of Examiners, such as having taught
25 successfully under the out-of-State license or certificate for at least
26 three years, as documented by a letter of experience from a past
27 supervisor or authorized district representative; having met the New
28 Jersey grade point average requirement for an instructional
29 certificate under State Board of Education regulations; or having
30 completed continuing education units; and

31 (3) Pays any applicable fees required by the State Board of
32 Examiners , which fees shall not exceed \$100.

33 c. A temporary instructional certificate issued under this
34 section shall be valid for **【180】** 365 days and may be extended at
35 the discretion of the State Board of Examiners for another **【180】**
36 365 days on application of the holder of the temporary instructional
37 certificate. The temporary instructional certificate shall authorize
38 the nonresident military spouse to be employed as a teacher by a
39 board of education on a temporary basis while completing any
40 specific additional requirements for an instructional certificate in
41 New Jersey that were not required in the other state in which the
42 nonresident military spouse holds a license or certificate to teach.

43 d. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a
44 nonresident military spouse from obtaining a New Jersey certificate
45 of eligibility, certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, or

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.

1 standard certificate under State Board of Education regulations,
2 including the regulation for interstate reciprocity.

3 e. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations
4 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
5 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of this
6 section.
7 (cf: P.L.2013, c.68, s.1)

8
9 2. (New section) The Department of Education shall establish
10 procedures to expedite the processing of an application submitted
11 by a nonresident military spouse, as defined in subsection a. of
12 section 1 of P.L.2013, c.68 (C.18A:26-2.14), for a New Jersey
13 instructional certificate. The Department of Education and the State
14 Board of Examiners shall establish a reduced fee schedule for the
15 issuance of an instructional certificate to a nonresident military
16 spouse. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the
17 issuance of an instructional certificate to a nonresident military
18 spouse who has not met the applicable State requirements for the
19 certificate.

20
21 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
22
23

24 STATEMENT

25
26 Current law, P.L.2013, c.68 (C.18A:26-2.14), provides a process
27 whereby an individual who is licensed to teach in another state and
28 is married to an active duty member of the military who has been
29 transferred to New Jersey, may obtain a temporary instructional
30 certificate to be employed as a teacher in New Jersey on a
31 temporary basis while completing any additional requirements for a
32 New Jersey instructional certificate. The temporary instructional
33 certificate is valid for 180 days and may be extended by the State
34 Board of Examiners for another 180 days. This bill amends current
35 law to provide that the temporary instructional certificate will be
36 valid for 365 days and may be extended by the State board for
37 another 365 days. The bill also provides that the fees charged to a
38 nonresident military spouse for the issuance of a temporary
39 instructional certificate cannot exceed \$100.

40 In addition, this bill supplements existing law to require the
41 Department of Education to establish procedures to expedite the
42 processing of an application submitted by a nonresident military
43 spouse for a New Jersey instructional certificate. The bill also
44 directs the Department of Education and the State Board of
45 Examiners to establish a reduced fee schedule for the issuance of an
46 instructional certificate to a nonresident military spouse.