**An Act To Authorize Lifetime Teaching Certificates**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec.** **1. 20-A MRSA §13027** is enacted to read:

**§****13027.** **Lifetime teaching certificate**

**1.** **Application, review and certificate issuance.** A person who meets the eligibility requirements of subsection 2 may apply for a lifetime teaching certificate by filing an application with the department. The commissioner shall review the application, and if the commissioner approves the application, the commissioner shall reissue the applicant's professional teacher certificate as a lifetime teaching certificate.

**2.** **Eligibility.** To be eligible for a lifetime teaching certificate, a person must:

A. Hold a valid professional teacher certificate issued pursuant to this Title; and

B. Have taught in the State within the area of endorsement on the person's professional teacher certificate for at least 20 years while maintaining a teaching certificate issued pursuant to this Title.

**3.** **State and federal laws, rules and regulations.** A lifetime teaching certificate holder is subject to all state and federal laws, rules and regulations related to the holder's certification, including, but not limited to, laws, rules and regulations related to criminal history record checks and special education training.

**4.** **Proof of qualifications.** The department may not require a holder of a lifetime teaching certificate to provide proof of professional development, continuing education credits, education or other similar qualifications to maintain the certificate.

**5.** **Revocation.** A lifetime teaching certificate is subject to the same laws for revocation as any teaching certificate.

**6.** **Renewal not required.** A person who holds a lifetime teaching certificate is not required to renew the certificate.

**7.** **No annual fee.** The department may assess a one-time fee for a lifetime teaching certificate but may not require a holder of a lifetime teaching certificate to pay an annual fee to maintain the certificate.

**Sec.** **2.** **Rules.** The Department of Education shall adopt rules setting a reasonable one-time fee for a lifetime teaching certificate under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20‑A, section 13027, subsection 7. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**SUMMARY**

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education to issue lifetime teaching certificates to teachers in the State who have maintained a teaching certificate and taught in the State for at least 20 years.