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H.P. 230

House of Representatives, February 8, 2021

An Act To Authorize Lifetime Teaching Certificates

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FECTION of Augusta.

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

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

3 **§13027. Lifetime teaching certificate**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 **Sec. 2. Rules.** The Department of Education shall adopt rules setting a reasonable
29 one-time fee for a lifetime teaching certificate under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
30 20-A, section 13027, subsection 7. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine
31 technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

32 **SUMMARY**

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