



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 712

H.P. 481

House of Representatives, February 16, 2023

An Act to Extend or Waive Requirements for Certain Teaching Certificates

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BELL of Yarmouth.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13011, sub-§7-A** is enacted to read:

3 7-A. Requirement waiver. The commissioner may as applicable waive one year of
4 a student teaching requirement for an individual seeking the issuance of a certificate if the
5 individual holds a certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching
6 Standards or its successor organization.

7 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13011-B** is enacted to read:

8 **§13011-B. Conditional certification extension based on extenuating circumstances**

9 Notwithstanding the term of a conditional certificate under section 13012-A,
10 subsection 2, upon request of a school administrative unit, the commissioner may grant an
11 extension on an individual's conditional certificate in the case of extenuating circumstances
12 including, but not limited to, public health emergencies, illness of the individual or an
13 inability of the individual to teach for an extended period of time. The request for an
14 extension must be accompanied by supporting documentation of the extenuating
15 circumstances, which may include, but is not limited to, correspondence from a physician
16 or a written request from the superintendent of the school administrative unit where the
17 individual is employed.

18 **Sec. 3. Rules; State Board of Education.** The State Board of Education shall as
19 soon as practicable and in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section
20 13011, subsection 7-A amend its rules regarding requirements for a teaching certification
21 to allow a teacher to use a National Board Certification from the National Board for
22 Professional Teaching Standards to fulfill applicable student teaching eligibility
23 requirements. Rules adopted under this section are routine technical rules as defined in
24 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill allows the Commissioner of Education to grant an extension of a conditional
27 teaching certification in the case of extenuating circumstances. The request for an extension
28 must be accompanied by supporting documentation of the circumstances. The bill also
29 allows the Commissioner of Education to waive a requirement for a teaching certificate if
30 the individual seeking the issuance of the certificate holds a National Board Certification
31 from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The bill directs the State
32 Board of Education to amend its rules about the requirements for a conditional teaching
33 certificate to allow for a holder of a National Board Certification from the National Board
34 for Professional Teaching Standards to be granted a waiver for a student teaching
35 requirement.