

HOUSE BILL No. 2842

By Committee on Education

2-12

9 AN ACT concerning teachers; relating to certification; enacting the
10 American board for certification of teacher excellence act.

11

12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. (a) This act shall be known and may be cited as the Amer-
14 ican board for certification of teacher excellence act.

15 (b) Subject to the provisions of this section, a school district may
16 employ, as a teacher, any person who holds a passport certificate issued
17 by the American board for certification of teacher excellence (ABCTE)
18 if such person meets the requirements of this act in the content areas of
19 biology, chemistry, elementary education, English, United States history,
20 world history, mathematics, physics, science or special education.

21 (c) The state board of education shall issue an alternative-route
22 teacher's license to any person who: (1) Holds a passport certificate issued
23 by the ABCTE; (2) has a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally
24 accredited college or university or an institution with a teacher education
25 program that has been approved by the state board of education pursuant
26 to K.S.A. 72-1371, and amendments thereto; (3) has met the require-
27 ments of K.S.A. 72-1397, and amendments thereto; and (4) has paid a
28 license fee established by the state board. An application for an alterna-
29 tive-route license shall be submitted to the state board in the same man-
30 ner, and except as specifically provided by this section shall be subject to
31 the same requirements for the issuance, renewal, reinstatement and reg-
32 istration of licenses under article 13 of chapter 72 of the Kansas Statutes
33 Annotated and any rules and regulations adopted by the state board of
34 education relating to the issuance, renewal, reinstatement and registration
35 of teachers' licenses. An initial alternative-route license shall be valid for
36 one year and may be renewed for two additional years upon the successful
37 completion of teaching and of the hiring district's induction program.

38 (d) A person who has received a passport certificate issued by the
39 ABCTE may not be hired by a school district in Kansas without first
40 submitting to the state board of education, office of educator certification
41 at the time of application a federal bureau of investigation fingerprint
42 card and without having undergone a criminal records check by the Kan-
43 sas law enforcement division and a national criminal records check sup-

1 ported by fingerprints and conducted by the federal bureau of
2 investigation.

3 (e) No person may be issued an alternative-route license unless such
4 person has consented to a background investigation conducted by the
5 Kansas bureau of investigation. Upon written request of the state board
6 of education, it shall be the duty of the Kansas bureau of investigation to
7 conduct a background investigation of any person submitting an appli-
8 cation for an alternative-route teacher's license. Any person submitting
9 an application for an alternative-route teacher's license also shall submit
10 such person's fingerprints to the Kansas bureau of investigation for the
11 purposes of verifying the identity of such person and obtaining records
12 of criminal arrests and convictions.

13 The state board of education may receive from the Kansas bureau of
14 investigation or other criminal justice agencies, including, but not limited
15 to, the federal bureau of investigation and the federal internal revenue
16 service, such criminal history record information (including arrest and
17 nonconviction data), criminal intelligence information and information
18 relating to criminal and background investigations as necessary to deter-
19 mine the eligibility of such person for licensure under this section. The
20 board may fix and collect a fee as may be required by the board in an
21 amount necessary to reimburse the board for the cost of fingerprinting
22 and the criminal history record check. Any moneys collected under this
23 subsection shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the
24 teacher and administrator fee fund.

25 (f) Any person who is issued an alternative-route license pursuant to
26 this section shall have the same responsibilities and rights as a teacher
27 issued a license under the provisions of article 13 of chapter 72 of the
28 Kansas Statutes Annotated and any rules and regulations adopted by the
29 state board of education pursuant thereto.

30 (g) School districts employing teachers holding alternative-route li-
31 censes shall submit reports relating thereto as required by the state board
32 of education.

33 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
34 publication in the statute book.