

## CHAPTER 21

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**EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS**


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**HOUSE BILL 07-1091**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gagliardi, Casso, Cerbo, Frangas, Gallegos, Labuda, Massey, Merrifield, Peniston, Solano, Summers, and Todd;  
also SENATOR(S) Windels, and Shaffer.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY TO EXTEND AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR.**

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** 22-60.5-102 (4) and (5), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

**22-60.5-102. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(4) "Alternative teacher contract" means a ~~one-year~~ contract, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-60.5-207, entered into for an alternative teacher position by ~~any~~ A holder of an alternative teacher license and ~~any~~ A school district or accredited independent school ~~which~~ THAT has an alternative teacher program.

(5) "Alternative teacher program" means a ~~one-year~~ program of study and training for teacher preparation, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-60.5-205, for persons of demonstrated knowledge and ability who hold an alternative teacher license pursuant to section 22-60.5-201 (1) (a). ~~which meets~~ AN "ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM" SHALL MEET the standards of and ~~has been approved by~~ OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF the state board of education and, ~~that,~~ upon completion, ~~leads~~ LEAD to a recommendation for licensure by the school district or districts or the accredited independent school providing ~~such~~ THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER program.

**SECTION 2.** 22-60.5-201 (1) (a) (IV), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

**22-60.5-201. Types of teacher licenses issued - term.** (1) The department of education is designated as the sole agency authorized to issue the following teacher licenses to persons of good moral character:

(a) **Alternative teacher license.** (IV) An alternative teacher license shall be valid in any school district or accredited independent school ~~which~~ THAT provides an alternative teacher program and shall entitle its holder to work exclusively as an alternative teacher pursuant to the terms of an alternative teacher contract. ~~Any~~ AN alternative teacher license issued pursuant to this paragraph (a) shall be valid for a period of one year after the date of issuance AND MAY BE RENEWED FOR ONLY ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR ONLY ON WRITTEN EVIDENCE THAT THE EMPLOYING SCHOOL DISTRICT OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ANTICIPATES EXTENDING THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER'S CONTRACT FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 22-60.5-207 (2).

**SECTION 3.** 22-60.5-205 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

**22-60.5-205. Alternative teacher programs - duties of department of education.** (1) ~~Any~~ A DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT PROVIDES AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM SHALL DESIGN THE PROGRAM TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN ONE YEAR, ALTHOUGH THE EMPLOYING SCHOOL DISTRICT OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL MAY EXTEND THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER'S PARTICIPATION FOR ONLY ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR BASED ON UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE EXPECTATION THAT THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CAN COMPLETE THE PROGRAM IN THE SECOND YEAR. AN alternative teacher program shall include, but shall not be limited to, supervision by mentor teachers, performance evaluations, and two hundred twenty-five clock hours of planned instruction and activities, which shall include training in dropout prevention; except that the total amount of hours of planned instruction and activities may be modified by the alternative teacher support team for ~~any~~ AN alternative teacher based upon the qualifications, knowledge, and experience of ~~such~~ THE alternative teacher. Performance evaluations shall be conducted in accordance with section 22-9-106; however, the state board of education may provide by rule ~~and regulation~~ for performance evaluations by mentor teachers.

**SECTION 4.** 22-60.5-206 (2) (e) and (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

**22-60.5-206. Alternative teacher support teams - duties - advisory councils.**

(2) The alternative teacher support team shall:

(e) Make a recommendation to the school district or accredited independent school ~~which~~ THAT employs the alternative teacher as to the eligibility of the alternative teacher to receive an initial teacher license OR WHETHER THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER IS UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT SHOULD APPLY FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER LICENSE WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER WILL COMPLETE THE PROGRAM IN THE SECOND YEAR.

(3) As a member of an alternative teacher support team, the mentor teacher has primary responsibility for representing the faculty and parents in evaluating and making recommendations regarding the issuance of an initial teacher license to the

alternative teacher OR RENEWAL OF THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER LICENSE FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR. In recognition of the significant duties and responsibilities of mentor teachers, the designating school district or accredited independent school shall make appropriate provision as is necessary to ensure the proper discharge of such duties and responsibilities by ~~such~~ THE mentor teacher.

**SECTION 5.** 22-60.5-207, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

**22-60.5-207. Alternative teacher contracts.** (2) THE TERM OF AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CONTRACT SHALL BE FOR ONE YEAR; EXCEPT THAT AN EMPLOYING SCHOOL DISTRICT OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL MAY EXTEND AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CONTRACT FOR ONLY ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR BASED ON WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PREVENT THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER FROM COMPLETING THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM IN ONE YEAR AND THE EXPECTATION OF THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER'S SUPPORT TEAM THAT HE OR SHE CAN COMPLETE THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM IN ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR.

**SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: March 14, 2007