

HOUSE No. 665

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kelly W. Pease

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act amending the professional licensure requirements for teachers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 665

By Representative Pease of Westfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 665) of Kelly W. Pease relative to amending the professional licensure requirements for teachers. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act amending the professional licensure requirements for teachers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 38G of Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking out the first paragraph of the definition of “Standard educator certificate” and replacing
3 it with the following:

4 "Standard educator certificate" shall be a license to teach issued to a person who has
5 successfully met the preparation and eligibility requirements as established by the board. The
6 standard educator certificate shall be valid for renewable terms of five years. A teacher may
7 qualify for a standard educator certificate upon completing the following requirements: (1)
8 holding a provisional educator certificate for at least five years, (2) successfully demonstrating
9 teaching proficiency through performance evaluations and evidence of student learning, (3)
10 meeting subject matter knowledge requirements established by the board, and (4) completing a
11 professional development plan that satisfies the criteria set forth by the board, which must be
12 approved by the local school district.

13 SECTION 2. Section 38G of Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
14 striking out the following paragraph:

15 “In not less than one year after the issuance of a provisional educator certificate, the
16 commissioner upon receipt of a proper application shall issue a standard educator certificate to
17 such provisional certificate holder who has provided the commissioner with evidence, in such
18 manner and form as prescribed by the board, that he has met the preparation and eligibility
19 requirements set by the board through a master's degree program approved by the commissioner,
20 or through an equivalent district program for standard certification approved by the
21 commissioner, or other equivalent programs approved by the commissioner; and has met the
22 requirements set by the commissioner for demonstration of successful performance.”

23 and replacing it with the following:

24 “In not less than one year after the issuance of a provisional educator certificate, the
25 commissioner, upon receipt of a proper application, shall issue a standard educator certificate to
26 such provisional certificate holder who has provided evidence, in such manner and form as
27 prescribed by the board, that the individual has:

28 (i) successfully completed at least five years of service as a provisional educator in a
29 Massachusetts public school district;

30 (ii) demonstrated satisfactory performance based on district evaluations, which shall
31 include evidence of student learning and growth, instructional effectiveness, and classroom
32 management, as determined by district evaluations and the board's established guidelines;

33 (iii) completed a professional development plan that satisfies the standards set by the
34 board, which must be approved by the local school district and include continued education in
35 teaching strategies, content knowledge, and classroom management, aligned with state and
36 district goals for improving student outcomes; and

37 (iv) met subject matter knowledge and teaching skill standards established by the board
38 through assessments, observations, or portfolio reviews that demonstrate proficiency in the
39 subject area(s) being taught.”

40 SECTION 3. The Board of Education is hereby authorized to revise its regulations to
41 eliminate the requirement of a master's degree for obtaining a standard educator certificate and to
42 establish new pathways to achieve standard educator status based on demonstrated performance,
43 professional development, and classroom experience.

44 SECTION 4. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shall
45 issue guidelines and instructions to school districts for the implementation of this new pathway
46 to certification. These guidelines shall ensure that teachers who have completed five years of
47 teaching service under a provisional educator certificate have the opportunity to obtain a
48 standard educator certificate based on performance evaluations, professional development, and
49 subject matter proficiency.

50 SECTION 5. The Board of Education shall prepare a report within 12 months of the
51 enactment of this law, analyzing the impact of removing the master’s degree requirement on
52 teacher retention, student outcomes, and professional development, and provide
53 recommendations for any additional supports that may be needed for the successful
54 implementation of this new certification process.