

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 888  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Fair, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Education - Initial Teacher Certification - Qualifications

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This bill expands the options for meeting the portfolio-based assessment requirements for an initial teacher certificate by allowing a candidate to qualify through a portfolio-based assessment from a *nationally accredited teacher preparation program*. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Expanding the options for graduates of approved or alternative teacher preparation programs to qualify for a teaching certificate through a portfolio-based assessment has no material fiscal effect on State finances.

**Local Effect:** There is no material fiscal effect on local school systems; however, there may be more licensed teachers available to hire.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Beginning July 1, 2025, for initial teacher certification, graduates from approved or alternative teacher preparation programs must:

- meet one of the following criteria: (1) pass a nationally recognized, portfolio-based assessment of teaching ability; or (2) complete a local school system’s rigorous teacher induction program, lasting either three years or the duration a teacher can hold a conditional certificate, whichever is less; and

- meet one additional qualification from among the following: (1) pass a basic literacy skills assessment approved by MSDE; (2) hold a degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or its equivalent; or (3) provide satisfactory documentation of effective evaluations from a local school system for three years.

In addition, an individual must pass a subject specific exam and meet any other requirements set by the State Board of Education.

**Additional Comments:** As of April 1, 2024, MSDE has introduced new licenses and licensing requirements for educators, replacing the prior certification system. Although current law and the bill refer to “teacher certification,” such language is assumed to apply to current teacher licensure standards adopted by MSDE.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Accountability and Implementation Board; Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George’s County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2025  
rh/mcr Third Reader - March 17, 2025

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