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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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### 2023 Wisconsin Act 197 [2023 Senate Bill 742]

### Alternative Teacher Certification Program

Under current law, the Department of Public Instruction must grant an initial license to teach to an individual who possesses a bachelor's degree, passes a background check, and has completed an alternative teacher certification program operated by an organization that satisfies all of the following criteria:

- Is a nonstock, nonprofit organization described under s. 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Operates in at least five states.
- Has been operating an alternative teacher certification program for at least 10 years.
- Requires candidates to pass a subject area exam and the pedagogy exam known as the Professional Teaching Knowledge exam to receive a certification under the alternative teacher certification.

2023 Wisconsin Act 197 removes the requirement that the organization be a nonstock, nonprofit organization.

**Effective date:** March 24, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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