

By: Guerra

H.B. No. 2256

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating a bilingual special education certification to teach students of limited English proficiency with disabilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.04891 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.04891. BILINGUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION.

(a) In this section, "limited English proficiency" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.052.

(b) To ensure that there are teachers with special training in providing instruction to students of limited English proficiency with disabilities, the board shall establish a bilingual special education certificate.

(c) To be eligible for a certificate established under this section, a person must:

(1) satisfactorily complete the coursework for that certificate in an educator preparation program, including a skills-based course of instruction on providing instruction to students of limited English proficiency with disabilities, which must include instruction on:

(A) the foundations of bilingual, multicultural, and second language special education;

(B) providing culturally responsive individualized education programs for students of limited English

1 proficiency with disabilities;

2 (C) providing assessment for equity and
3 inclusion of students of limited English proficiency with and
4 without disabilities;

5 (D) developing teaching methods to recognize the
6 intellectual, developmental, and emotional needs of students in
7 dual language and transitional bilingual education settings;

8 (E) teaching fundamental academic skills,
9 including reading, writing, and mathematics, to students of limited
10 English proficiency; and

11 (F) creating dynamic and collaborative
12 partnerships with families and school professionals;

13 (2) perform satisfactorily on a bilingual special
14 education certificate examination prescribed by the board; and

15 (3) satisfy any other requirements prescribed by the
16 board.

17 SECTION 2. The State Board for Educator Certification shall
18 propose rules:

19 (1) establishing requirements and prescribing an
20 examination for a bilingual special education certificate as
21 required by Section 21.04891, Education Code, as added by this Act;
22 and

23 (2) establishing standards to govern the approval and
24 renewal of approval of educator preparation programs for bilingual
25 special education certification.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.