

1-1 By: Shaheen (Senate Sponsor - Hughes) H.B. No. 621
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2023;
 1-3 May 4, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Education; May 12, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable
 1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 13, Nays 0;
 1-6 May 12, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21	X			

1-22 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 621 By: Birdwell

1-23 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-24 AN ACT

1-25 relating to creating a temporary educator certification for certain
 1-26 military service members and first responders.

1-27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-28 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by
 1-29 adding Section 21.0444 to read as follows:

1-30 Sec. 21.0444. TEMPORARY CERTIFICATION FOR CERTAIN MILITARY
 1-31 SERVICE MEMBERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS. (a) In this section, "first
 1-32 responder" means a person elected, employed, or appointed as:

1-33 (1) a peace officer as defined by Article 2.12, Code of
 1-34 Criminal Procedure;

1-35 (2) fire protection personnel as defined by Section
 1-36 419.021, Government Code; or

1-37 (3) emergency medical services personnel as defined by
 1-38 Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

1-39 (b) This section applies to a person seeking certification
 1-40 who:

1-41 (1) has served in the armed forces of the United States
 1-42 and was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active
 1-43 duty; or

1-44 (2) has served as a first responder and, while in good
 1-45 standing and not because of pending or final disciplinary actions
 1-46 or a documented performance problem, retired, resigned, or
 1-47 separated from employment as a first responder.

1-48 (c) The board shall propose rules under this subchapter
 1-49 providing for the issuance of a temporary certificate to a person
 1-50 described by Subsection (b) who meets all other eligibility
 1-51 requirements for standard certification, except that the person may
 1-52 substitute for a requirement that the person hold:

1-53 (1) an associate degree from an accredited institution
 1-54 of higher education, 48 months of active duty military service or
 1-55 service as a first responder; or

1-56 (2) a bachelor's degree:

1-57 (A) the military service or service as a first
 1-58 responder described by Subdivision (1); and

1-59 (B) 60 semester credit hours completed at a
 1-60 public or private institution of higher education with a minimum

2-1 grade point average of at least 2.50 on a four-point scale.

2-2 (d) Rules proposed by the board for a temporary certificate
2-3 issued under this section must provide that the certificate is:

2-4 (1) valid for no more than three years;

2-5 (2) limited to a one-time issuance; and

2-6 (3) not subject to renewal.

2-7 (e) A person issued a temporary certificate under this
2-8 section may be issued a standard certificate if the person
2-9 completes all eligibility requirements required for that
2-10 certification.

2-11 (f) A school district shall require a new employee who holds
2-12 a temporary certificate issued under this section to obtain at
2-13 least 20 hours of classroom management training, unless the new
2-14 employee has documented experience as an instructor or trainer
2-15 during the employee's required 48 months of active duty military
2-16 service or service as a first responder.

2-17 SECTION 2. Section 21.458, Education Code, is amended by
2-18 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-2) to read as
2-19 follows:

2-20 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-2), each [~~Each~~]
2-21 school district may assign a mentor teacher to each classroom
2-22 teacher who has less than two years of teaching experience in the
2-23 subject or grade level to which the teacher is assigned. A teacher
2-24 assigned as a mentor must:

2-25 (1) to the extent practicable, teach in the same
2-26 school;

2-27 (2) to the extent practicable, teach the same subject
2-28 or grade level, as applicable; and

2-29 (3) meet the qualifications prescribed by
2-30 commissioner rules adopted under Subsection (b).

2-31 (a-2) A school district shall assign a mentor teacher to a
2-32 classroom teacher who has been issued a temporary certificate under
2-33 Section 21.0444 for at least two school years.

2-34 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
2-35 of this Act, the State Board for Educator Certification shall
2-36 propose rules relating to temporary educator certificates for
2-37 certain military service members and first responders as required
2-38 by Section 21.0444, Education Code, as added by this Act.

2-39 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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