

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 318
By: Grusendorf
Public Education
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND

For several years, Texas school districts have faced a growing teacher shortage. Current traditional and alternative certification programs are not meeting the demand for certified teachers. Alternative certification processes require applicants to take courses in teaching methods and certain subject areas before taking the appropriate certification exams.

PURPOSE

House Bill 318 would allow a person who holds a bachelor's degree in one or more academic majors and passes the appropriate certification examination to be issued a teaching certificate. The purpose of this bill is to provide alternative teacher certification options to reduce the teacher shortage.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

House Bill 318 amends the Education Code to authorize the State Board for Educator Certification to issue alternative certification to a person who passes a comprehensive examination administered by the certification board and who holds a bachelor's degree with an academic major or interdisciplinary academic major that is related to at least one area of the essential knowledge and skills curriculum. The bill provides that a person whose academic major is related to only one of these subject areas is authorized to receive a certificate to teach only in that subject area.

This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon passage, or, if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2003.