

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 406

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to teacher certification in early childhood education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.050, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(b) The board may not require more than 18 semester credit hours of education courses at the baccalaureate level for the granting of a teaching certificate. The board shall provide for a minimum number of semester credit hours of internship to be included in the hours needed for certification. The board may propose rules requiring additional credit hours for certification in bilingual education, English as a second language[, ~~early childhood education~~], or special education.

(d) The board shall propose rules requiring that any certification in early childhood education, or in primary school education combined with early childhood education, include a minimum number of semester credit hours of education courses and internships emphasizing early childhood development. The rules must allow comparable work experience with a child-care facility or federal Head Start program to satisfy the internship requirement under this subsection. In this subsection, "child-care facility" has the meaning assigned by Section 42.002, Human Resources Code.

SECTION 2. The State Board for Educator Certification shall

1 propose the rules required by Section 21.050(d), Education Code, as  
2 added by this Act, not later than December 1, 2005. A rule proposed  
3 by the State Board for Educator Certification under Section  
4 21.050(d), Education Code, as added by this Act, applies only to  
5 early childhood education certification requirements for a person  
6 who enrolls in an educator preparation program on or after the date  
7 the proposed rule takes effect as a rule of the board. Early  
8 childhood education certification requirements for a person who  
9 enrolls in an educator preparation program before the date the  
10 proposed rule takes effect as a rule of the board are governed by  
11 the applicable State Board for Educator Certification rule in  
12 effect for that person immediately before the proposed rule takes  
13 effect as a rule of the board.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.