A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1 AN ACT 2 relating to continuation and functions of the State Board for 3 Educator Certification. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: 4 SECTION 1. Section 7.056(a), Education Code, is amended to 5 6 read as follows: (a) Except as provided by this subsection and Subsection 7 (e), a school campus or district may apply to the commissioner for a 8 9 waiver of a requirement, restriction, or prohibition imposed by this code or rule of the board or commissioner. A waiver of a 10 requirement related to educator certification under Subchapter B, 11 12 Chapter 21, is governed by Section 21.0572. SECTION 2. Section 21.003(a), Education Code, is amended to 13 14 read as follows: (a) A person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher 15 16 intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or counselor by a school 17 18 district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B. 19 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is 20 21 amended by adding Sections 21.0331, 21.0332, and 21.0341 to read as 22 follows: 23 Sec. 21.0331. INELIGIBILITY TO SERVE ON BOARD; 24 INELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS. (a) In this section, "Texas

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S.B. No. 418 trade association" means a cooperative and voluntarily joined 1 2 statewide association of business or professional competitors in this state designed to assist its members and its industry or 3 4 profession in dealing with mutual business or professional problems 5 and in promoting their common interest. 6 (b) A person may not be a member of the board and may not be a 7 board employee employed in a "bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity," as that phrase is used for purposes of 8 establishing an exemption to the overtime provisions of the federal 9 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.), 10 11 if: 12 (1) the person is an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of education; 13 14 or 15 (2) the person's spouse is an officer, manager, or paid 16 consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of education. 17 (c) A person may not be a member of the board or act as the general counsel to the board if the person is required to register 18 as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government Code, because of the 19 person's activities for compensation on behalf of a profession 20 21 related to the operation of the board. 22 Sec. 21.0332. TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF BOARD. (a) A person who is appointed and qualifies for office as a member of the 23 24 board may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a member in 25 attendance at a meeting of the board until the person completes a 26 training program that complies with this section. 27 (b) The training program must provide the person with

1 information regarding: 2 (1) this subchapter and the programs, functions, 3 rules, and budget of the board; 4 (2) the results of the most recent formal audit of the 5 board; 6 (3) the requirements of laws relating to open meetings, public information, administrative procedure, and 7 8 conflicts of interest; and (4) any applicable ethics policies adopted by the 9 board or the Texas Ethics Commission. 10 (c) A person appointed to the board is entitled to 11 12 reimbursement, as provided by the General Appropriations Act, for the travel expenses incurred in attending the training program, 13 14 regardless of whether attendance at the program occurs before or 15 after the person qualifies for office. Sec. 21.0341. REMOVAL FROM BOARD. (a) It is a ground for 16 17 removal from the board that a member: (1) does not have at the time of taking office the 18 applicable qualifications for office under Section 21.033; 19 20 (2) except as provided by Subsection (b), does not 21 maintain during service on the board the applicable qualifications 22 for office under Section 21.033; (3) is ineligible for membership under Section 23 24 21.0331; (4) cannot, because of illness or disability, 25 26 discharge the member's duties for a substantial part of the member's 27 term; or

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(5) is absent from more than half of the regularly 1 scheduled board meetings that the member is eligible to attend 2 during a calendar year, without an excuse approved by a majority 3 4 vote of the board. 5 (b) A member of the board appointed under Section 6 21.033(a)(1) who retires from teaching during the member's term of 7 office is entitled to complete the term. 8 (c) The validity of an action of the board is not affected by 9 the fact that the action was taken when a ground for removal of a board member existed. 10 (d) If the executive director has knowledge that a potential 11 12 ground for removal exists, the executive director shall notify the presiding officer of the board of the potential ground. The 13 14 presiding officer shall then notify the governor and the attorney 15 general that a potential ground for removal exists. If the potential ground for removal involves the presiding officer, the 16 17 executive director shall notify the next highest ranking officer of the board, who shall then notify the governor and the attorney 18 19 general that a potential ground for removal exists. SECTION 4. Section 21.035(a), Education Code, is amended to 20 read as follows: 21 The board is subject to Chapter 325, Government Code 22 (a) (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by 23 24 that chapter, the board is abolished and this subchapter expires September 1, 2017 [2005]. 25

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26 SECTION 5. Section 21.036, Education Code, is amended to 27 read as follows:

(a) The <u>governor</u> [<del>board</del>] shall 1 Sec. 21.036. OFFICERS. designate [elect] one of the board [its] members to serve as 2 presiding officer of the board [for a term of two years]. 3 The presiding officer serves at the pleasure of the governor and is 4 5 entitled to vote on all matters before the board. 6 (b) The board may elect other officers from among its 7 membership. SECTION 6. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is 8 9 amended by adding Sections 21.0401 and 21.0402 to read as follows: Sec. 21.0401. COLLECTION OF FINGERPRINTS REQUIRED. The 10 board shall obtain a complete set of fingerprints from: 11 12 (1) each applicant for a certificate issued under this 13 subchapter; and 14 (2) each applicant for or holder of a teaching permit 15 or provisional certificate issued under this subchapter. Sec. 21.0402. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS RELATING 16 ТО 17 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. (a) The board shall develop and update as necessary informational materials regarding the 18 requirements for educator certification, including information 19 related to criminal history check requirements and the type of 20 21 criminal history that could prevent a person from becoming 22 certified. (b) The board shall make the informational materials 23 24 described by Subsection (a) available to each educator preparation program or alternative certification program. 25 SECTION 7. Sections 21.041(b) and (c), Education Code, are 26

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27 amended to read as follows:

The board shall propose rules that: 1 (b) 2 (1)provide for the regulation of educators and the general administration of this subchapter in a manner consistent 3 4 with this subchapter; 5 (2) specify the classes of educator certificates to be 6 issued, including emergency certificates; 7 (3) specify the period for which each class of 8 educator certificate is valid; 9 specify the requirements for the issuance and (4)renewal of an educator certificate; 10 (5) provide for the issuance 11 of an educator certificate to a person who holds a similar certificate issued by 12 another state or foreign country, subject to Section 21.052; 13 14 (6) provide for special or restricted certification of 15 educators, including certification of instructors of American Sign 16 Language; 17 (7) provide for the investigation of complaints of disciplinary violations, including: 18 19 (A) a deadline for each action in the investigation of a complaint; 20 21 (B) notification requirements for each party involved in the complaint; and 22 (C) a method for designating the severity of an 23 24 alleged violation that allows the board to set priorities for 25 conducting investigations; (8) provide for disciplinary proceedings, including 26 27 the suspension or revocation of an educator certificate, as

S.B. No. 418 1 provided by Chapter 2001, Government Code; 2 (9) [(8)] provide for the adoption, amendment, and enforcement of an educator's code of ethics; 3 4 (10) [<del>(9)</del>] provide for continuing education 5 requirements; and 6 (11) [<del>(10)</del>] provide for certification of persons 7 performing appraisals under Subchapter H. 8 (c) The board shall propose <u>rules</u> [a rule] adopting <u>fees</u> [a 9 fee] for: 10 (1) the issuance and maintenance of <u>each</u> [an] educator certificate, including a provisional certificate, that is adequate 11 to cover the cost of administration of this subchapter, including 12 any amount necessary to cover the cost of obtaining fingerprints 13 14 under Section 21.0401 or conducting a national criminal background 15 check under Section 22.082; and (2) covering the cost of obtaining fingerprints from 16 17 or conducting a national criminal background check on a holder of a teaching permit issued under this subchapter. 18 19 SECTION 8. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 21.0411-21.0414 to read as follows: 20 21 Sec. 21.0411. DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED RULES. (a) This section applies to the process by which the State Board for Educator 22 Certification develops proposed rules for the State Board of 23 24 Education's consideration under Section 21.042 before the proposed rules are published in the Texas Register and before the State Board 25 26 for Educator Certification or the State Board of Education complies with the rulemaking requirements of Chapter 2001, Government Code. 27

1	This section does not affect any duty to comply with the rulemaking
2	requirements of that law.
3	(b) The State Board for Educator Certification shall
4	establish a checklist of methods that, to the extent appropriate,
5	the board will follow to obtain early in the rule development
6	process the advice and opinions of the public and of persons who
7	will be most affected by a proposed rule. The checklist must
8	include methods for identifying persons who will be most affected
9	and for soliciting at a minimum the advice and opinions of the
10	agency, other state agency personnel, educators, school district
11	administrators, and, to the extent appropriate, parents. The
12	checklist may include negotiated rulemaking, informal conferences,
13	advisory committees, and any other appropriate method.
14	(c) A rule proposed by the State Board for Educator
15	Certification and adopted by the State Board of Education may not be
16	challenged on the grounds that the State Board for Educator
17	Certification did not comply with this section.
18	(d) This section does not apply to the proposal of an
19	emergency rule to be adopted in accordance with Section 2001.034,
20	Government Code.
21	Sec. 21.0412. PUBLIC TESTIMONY. The board shall develop
22	and implement policies designed to provide the public with a
23	reasonable opportunity to appear before the board and to speak on
24	any issue under the board's jurisdiction.
25	Sec. 21.0413. NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING AND ALTERNATIVE
26	DISPUTE RESOLUTION. (a) The board shall develop and implement a
27	policy to encourage the use of:

1	(1) negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter
2	2008, Government Code, for the proposal of board rules; and
3	(2) appropriate alternative dispute resolution
4	procedures under Chapter 2009, Government Code, to assist in the
5	resolution of internal and external disputes under the board's
6	jurisdiction.
7	(b) The board's procedures relating to alternative dispute
8	resolution must conform, to the extent possible, to any model
9	guidelines issued by the State Office of Administrative Hearings
10	for the use of alternative dispute resolution by state agencies.
11	(c) The board shall designate a trained person to:
12	(1) coordinate the implementation of the policy
13	adopted under Subsection (a);
14	(2) serve as a resource for any training needed to
15	implement the procedures for negotiated rulemaking and alternative
16	dispute resolution; and
17	(3) collect data concerning the effectiveness of those
18	procedures, as implemented by the board.
19	Sec. 21.0414. TECHNOLOGY POLICY. The board shall
20	implement a policy requiring the board to use appropriate
21	technological solutions to improve the board's ability to perform
22	its functions. The policy must ensure that the public is able to
23	interact with the board on the Internet.
24	SECTION 9. Section 21.042, Education Code, is amended to
25	read as follows:
26	Sec. 21.042. APPROVAL OF RULES. (a) The State Board for
27	Educator Certification must submit a written copy of each rule it

proposes to adopt to the State Board of Education for review. 1 2 (b) By a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present 3 and voting, the [The] State Board of Education may: 4 (1) reject a portion of a proposed rule; or 5 reject an entire [a] proposed rule [by a vote of at (2) 6 least two-thirds of the members of the board present and voting]. 7 (c) If the State Board of Education fails to reject a 8 proposal before the 90th day after the date on which it receives the proposal, the proposal takes effect as a rule of the State Board for 9 Educator Certification as provided by Chapter 2001, Government 10 Code. 11 (d) Except as provided by Subsection (b)(1), the [The] State 12 Board of Education may not modify a rule proposed by the State Board 13 14 for Educator Certification. 15 SECTION 10. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.0421 to read as follows: 16 17 Sec. 21.0421. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, DONATIONS, AND GRANTS. (a) The board may solicit and accept for the purposes of this 18 19 subchapter: (1) gifts and donations from any source the board 20 21 considers appropriate; and (2) grants from any source, other than the federal 22 government, the board considers appropriate. 23 24 (b) Not later than December 31 of each year, the board shall 25 report to the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of 26 representatives: 27 (1) the source and amount of each gift, donation, and

1	grant accepted under this section; and
2	(2) the source and amount of each gift, donation, or
3	grant offered to but not accepted by the board.
4	SECTION 11. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
5	amended by adding Sections 21.0485 and 21.0521 to read as follows:
6	Sec. 21.0485. EXAMINATION RESULTS. (a) Not later than the
7	30th day after the date a person takes a certification examination
8	under this subchapter, the board shall notify the person of the
9	examination results.
10	(b) If the examination is graded or reviewed by a testing
11	service:
12	(1) the board shall notify the person of the
13	examination results not later than the 14th day after the date the
14	board receives the results from the testing service; and
15	(2) if notice of the examination results will be
16	delayed for longer than 90 days after the examination date, the
17	board shall notify the person of the reason for the delay before the
18	90th day.
19	(c) The board may require a testing service to notify a
20	person of the results of the person's examination.
21	(d) If requested in writing by a person who fails a
22	certification examination administered under this subchapter, the
23	board shall furnish the person with an analysis of the person's
24	performance on the examination.
25	Sec. 21.0521. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE. (a) After a
26	satisfactory review of an applicant's educator credentials, the
27	board may issue a provisional certificate to an applicant who is

1	currently certified or licensed in good standing as an educator in
2	another jurisdiction, including a foreign country, that has
3	certification or licensing requirements that are substantially
4	equivalent to the requirements of this subchapter but who has not
5	passed an examination determined by the board to be similar to and
6	at least as rigorous as the examination prescribed under Section
7	21.048.
8	(b) A provisional certificate issued under this section is
9	valid for not longer than 12 months from the effective date of the
10	provisional certificate.
11	(c) The board shall issue a standard certificate under this
12	subchapter to the provisional certificate holder if the person is
13	eligible to be certified under Section 21.052.
14	SECTION 12. Sections 21.055(c) and (d), Education Code, are
15	amended to read as follows:

(c) Promptly after employing a person under this section, a school district shall send to the <u>board the person's fingerprints</u> <u>and [commissioner]</u> a written statement identifying the person, the person's qualifications as a teacher, and the subject or class the person will teach. The person may teach the subject or class pending action by the <u>board</u> [commissioner].

(d) Not later than the 30th day after the date the <u>board</u> [commissioner] receives the statement under Subsection (c), the <u>board</u> [commissioner] may inform the district in writing that the <u>board</u> [commissioner] finds the person is not qualified to teach. The person may not teach if the <u>board</u> [commissioner] finds the person is not qualified. If the <u>board</u> [commissioner] fails to act

1 2 3 may teach the subject or class identified in the statement. SECTION 13. Section 21.057(d), Education Code, is amended 4 5 to read as follows: (d) For purposes of this section, "inappropriately 6 7 certified or uncertified teacher": (1) 8 includes: (A) 9 an individual serving on an certificate issued under Section 21.041(b)(2); or 10 (B) an individual who does 11 not hold any certificate or permit issued under this chapter and is not employed 12 as specified by Subdivision (2)(E); and 13 14 (2) does not include an individual: 15 16 17 specifying the certificate required for each assignment; 18 serving on a certificate issued due to a 19 (B) hearing impairment under Section 21.048; 21 (C) serving on a certificate issued pursuant to enrollment in an approved alternative certification program under 22 Section 21.049; 23 24 (D) certified by another state or country and 25 serving on a certificate issued under Section 21.052 or a 26 provisional certificate issued under Section 21.0521; 27 (E) serving on a school district teaching permit

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within the time prescribed by this subsection, the district may issue to the person a school district teaching permit and the person

emergency

(A) who is a certified teacher assigned to teach a class or classes outside the individual's [his or her] area of certification, as determined by rules proposed by the board in

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1 issued under Section 21.055; or 2 (F) employed under a waiver granted by the board 3 [commissioner] pursuant to Section 21.0572 [7.056]. 4 SECTION 14. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is 5 amended by adding Sections 21.0571-21.0575 to read as follows: 6 Sec. 21.0571. COMPLAINTS. (a) The board shall maintain a system to promptly and efficiently act on complaints filed with the 7 board. The board shall maintain information about parties to the 8 complaint, the subject matter of the complaint, a summary of the 9 results of the review or investigation of the complaint, and its 10 11 disposition. (b) The board shall make information available describing 12 its procedures for complaint investigation and resolution. 13 (c) The board shall periodically notify the complaint 14 15 parties of the status of the complaint until final disposition. Sec. 21.0572. WAIVER OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT. A 16 17 school district may apply to the board for a waiver of a requirement under this subchapter that prohibits a teacher from teaching 18 19 outside the teacher's area of certification. Sec. 21.0573. EXPIRATION OF CERTIFICATES. The board by 20 21 rule may adopt a system under which certificates expire on various dates during the year. For the year in which the certificate 22 expiration date is changed, the board shall prorate certification 23 24 fees on a monthly basis so that each certificate holder pays only that portion of the fee that is allocable to the number of months 25 26 during which the certificate is valid. On renewal of the certificate on the new expiration date, the total renewal fee is 27

1 payable.

Sec. 21.0574. CERTIFICATE RENEWAL. (a) A person who is otherwise eligible to renew a certificate may renew an unexpired certificate by paying the required renewal fee to the board before the expiration date of the certificate. A person whose certificate has expired may not engage in activities that require a certificate until the certificate has been renewed.

8 (b) A person whose certificate has been expired for 90 days 9 or less may renew the certificate by paying to the board a renewal 10 fee that is equal to one and one-half times the normally required 11 renewal fee.

12 (c) A person whose certificate has been expired for more 13 than 90 days but less than one year may renew the certificate by 14 paying to the board a renewal fee that is equal to two times the 15 normally required renewal fee.

16 (d) A person whose certificate has been expired for one year 17 or more may not renew the certificate. The person may obtain a new 18 certificate by complying with the requirements and procedures, 19 including the examination requirements, for obtaining an original 20 certificate.

21 (e) A person who held a certificate in this state, moved to 22 another state, and currently holds a certificate and has been in 23 practice in the other state for the two years preceding the date of 24 application may obtain a new certificate without reexamination. 25 The person must pay to the board a fee that is equal to two times the 26 normally required renewal fee for the certificate.

27 (f) Not later than the 30th day before the date a person's

certificate is scheduled to expire, the board shall send written 1 2 notice of the impending expiration to the person at the person's last known address according to the records of the board. 3 4 Sec. 21.0575. REVOCATION, MODIFICATION, OR SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATE GENERALLY. (a) The board shall revoke, suspend, or 5 6 refuse to renew a certificate or reprimand a certificate holder for 7 a violation of this subchapter or a rule of the board. (b) The board may place on probation a person whose 8 certificate has been suspended. If a certificate suspension is 9 10 probated, the board may require the person: (1) to report regularly to the board on matters that 11 12 are the basis of the probation; 13 (2) to limit activities to the areas prescribed by the 14 board; or 15 (3) to continue or review professional education until the person attains a degree of skill satisfactory to the board in 16 those areas that are the basis of the probation. 17 SECTION 15. Section 21.058(b), Education Code, is amended 18 to read as follows: 19 Notwithstanding Section <u>21.041(b)(8)</u> [<del>21.041(b)(7)</del>], 20 (b) not later than the fifth day after the date the board receives 21 notice under Article 42.018, Code of Criminal Procedure, of the 22 conviction of a person who holds a certificate under this 23 subchapter, the board shall: 24 25 (1)revoke the certificate held by the person; and 26 (2) provide to the person and to any school district or 27 open-enrollment charter school employing the person at the time of

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S.B. No. 418 1 revocation written notice of: 2 (A) the revocation; and 3 (B) the basis for the revocation. SECTION 16. Section 22.0512(b), Education Code, is amended 4 5 to read as follows: 6 (b) In this section, "disciplinary proceeding" means: 7 an action brought by the school district employing (1)a professional employee of a school district to discharge or 8 9 suspend the employee or terminate or not renew the employee's term 10 contract; or (2) an action brought by the State Board for Educator 11 Certification to enforce the educator's code of ethics adopted 12 under Section 21.041(b)(9) [21.041(b)(8)]. 13 14 SECTION 17. Section 22.082, Education Code, is amended to 15 read as follows: Sec. 22.082. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS BY STATE 16 BOARD FOR EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION. 17 The State Board for Educator Certification shall obtain from any law enforcement or criminal 18 justice agency all state and national criminal history record 19 information that relates to an applicant for or holder of a 20 21 certificate or permit issued under Subchapter B, Chapter 21. The board shall require an applicant or holder to pay any costs related 22 to obtaining criminal history information under this section. 23 24 SECTION 18. Subchapter C, Chapter 22, Education Code, is 25 amended by adding Section 22.0821 to read as follows: Sec. 22.0821. INITIATION OF CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK BY 26 CERTAIN STUDENTS. The State Board for Educator Certification may 27

allow a person enrolled in an educator preparation program or an 2 alternative certification program to, before the person completes the program or submits an application for certification, submit 3 fingerprints in accordance with Section 21.0401 and request that 4 5 the board begin to obtain criminal history information relating to 6 the person as required by Section 22.082. 7 SECTION 19. Section 411.090, Government Code, is amended to 8 read as follows: Sec. 411.090. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION 9 AND FINGERPRINTS: STATE BOARD FOR EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION. (a) The 10 State Board for Educator Certification is entitled to obtain from 11 the department any criminal history record information maintained 12 by the department about a person who has applied or intends to apply 13 14 [to the board] for a certificate or permit under Subchapter B, 15 Chapter 21, Education Code. (b) Criminal history record information obtained by the 16 17 board under Subsection (a): (1) may be used for any purpose related to the 18 issuance, denial, suspension, or cancellation of a certificate or 19 permit under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code [issued by 20 21 the board]; and may not be released to any person except on court 22 (2) order or with the consent of the applicant for a certificate or 23 24 permit [; and 25 [(3) shall be destroyed by the board after the 26 information is used for the authorized purposes].

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27 (c) The State Board for Educator Certification may keep on

file with the department all fingerprints obtained by the board 1 2 under Section 21.0401, Education Code. The department shall notify 3 the board of the arrest of any educator who has fingerprints on file with the department. 4 (d) In this section, "educator" has the meaning assigned by 5 6 Section 5.001, Education Code. Section 21.035(c), Education Code, is repealed. 7 SECTION 20. (a) Not later than January 1, 2006, the State 8 SECTION 21. 9 Board for Educator Certification shall propose rules governing the certification of educational diagnosticians. Section 21.003(a), 10 Education Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to the 11 employment of an educational diagnostician by a school district on 12 or after September 1, 2006. 13 (b) Sections 21.0331 and 21.0332, Education Code, as added 14 15 by this Act, do not affect the entitlement of a person serving as a member of the State Board for Educator Certification immediately 16 17 before September 1, 2005, to continue to serve and function as a member of the board for the remainder of the person's term. 18 Sections 21.0331 and 21.0332, Education Code, as added by this Act, 19

(c) Section 21.0485, Education Code, as added by this Act,
applies only to an examination administered under Subchapter B,
Chapter 21, Education Code, on or after September 1, 2005.

Certification on or after September 1, 2005.

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apply only to a person appointed to the State Board for Educator

(d) Section 21.0571, Education Code, as added by this Act,
applies only to a complaint filed with the State Board for Educator
Certification on or after September 1, 2005, regardless of whether

S.B. No. 418 1 the conduct or act that is the subject of the complaint occurred or 2 was committed before, on, or after that date.

(e) Section 21.0574, Education Code, as added by this Act,
applies to fees for renewal of a certificate under Subchapter B,
Chapter 21, Education Code, that expires on or after September 1,
2005. Fees for renewal of a certificate that expired before that
date are governed by the law in effect on the date the certificate
expired, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.
SECTION 22. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.