

By: Howard of Fort Bend

H.B. No. 879

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certification and continuing education requirements for certain public education administrators.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.0461 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.0461. TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE FOR SUPERINTENDENT OR PRINCIPAL. (a) The board may issue a temporary certificate under this section for:

(1) assistant principal;

(2) principal; or

(3) superintendent.

(b) A candidate for certification under this section must:

(1) hold a baccalaureate or advanced degree from an institution of higher education;

(2) have significant management and leadership experience, as determined by the board of trustees of the school district that will employ the person under the temporary certificate; and

(3) perform satisfactorily on the appropriate examination prescribed under Section 21.048.

(c) A school district may require that a person who is employed by the district and who holds a certificate issued under this section complete a training program.

1 (d) A certificate issued to a person under this section is
2 valid only in the school district in which the person is initially
3 employed after receiving the certificate.

4 (e) A certificate issued under this section:

5 (1) expires on the third anniversary of the date on
6 which the certificate was issued; and

7 (2) is not renewable.

8 (f) The board shall issue a standard certificate to a person
9 who holds a temporary certificate issued under this section if the
10 school district employing the person under the temporary
11 certificate:

12 (1) has employed the person for at least three years in
13 the capacity for which the person seeks a standard certificate; and

14 (2) has recommended the person to the board and
15 favorably reviewed, primarily using objective measures of student
16 performance and improvement in the district, the person's
17 performance.

18 (g) A school district employing a person who holds a
19 temporary certificate issued under this section must provide the
20 person with intensive support during the person's first year of
21 employment with the district, including:

22 (1) mentoring; and

23 (2) intensive, high-quality professional development.

24 (h) For purposes of this section, the board by rule may
25 determine the criteria a school district board of trustees shall
26 use to determine whether a candidate for certification under this
27 section has significant management and leadership experience.

1 SECTION 2. Section 21.054, Education Code, is amended by
2 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as
3 follows:

4 (b) Continuing education for principals must be based on an
5 individual assessment of the knowledge, skills, and proficiencies
6 necessary to perform successfully as a principal, as identified in
7 Section 21.046. As part of a principal's compliance with
8 continuing education requirements under this section, a principal
9 must attend advanced management training courses or programs as
10 prescribed by board rule. An individualized professional growth
11 plan shall be developed as a result of the assessment and shall be
12 used exclusively for professional growth purposes. The assessment
13 results and the growth plan may only be released with the approval
14 of the principal assessed. Except as provided by Section 21.059,
15 each certified principal shall participate in the assessment
16 process and professional growth activities at least once every five
17 years.

18 (c) The board, in consultation with business schools,
19 departments, or programs at institutions of higher education, shall
20 propose rules to govern the approval and accountability of advanced
21 management training courses or programs required under this
22 section. In proposing a rule under this section, the board shall
23 require that a person conducting a course or program have
24 recognized expertise in business management.

25 SECTION 3. (a) Section 21.0461, Education Code, as added
26 by this Act, applies beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

27 (b) Section 21.054, Education Code, as amended by this Act,

1 applies beginning with the 2008-2009 school year.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.