

By: Howard of Fort Bend

H.B. No. 1544

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to educator preparation and certification requirements concerning reading instruction in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.044, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21.044. EDUCATOR PREPARATION. (a) The board shall propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program. The board shall specify the minimum academic qualifications required for a certificate.

(b) In this subsection, "essential components of reading instruction," "reading," and "scientifically based reading research" have the meanings assigned by Section 1208, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6368). The board's rules under Subsection (a) must require that for a person to obtain a certificate under which the person may teach at an elementary grade level or teach reading at any grade level, the person must complete training in reading instruction, including training in:

(1) the essential components of reading instruction;

(2) reading;

(3) spelling;

(4) grammar, punctuation, and capitalization skills;

(5) the diagnosis of reading deficiencies;

1           (6) strategies for early intervention in reading  
2 deficiencies;

3           (7) scientifically based reading research on the  
4 manner in which children learn to read;

5           (8) scientifically based reading research on the  
6 manner in which proficient readers read;

7           (9) the structure of the English language;

8           (10) the relationships among reading, writing, and  
9 spelling;

10           (11) planning and delivering appropriate reading  
11 instruction based on assessment and evaluation; and

12           (12) independent student reading of high quality books  
13 and the relationship of that reading to improved reading  
14 performance.

15           SECTION 2. Section 21.045, Education Code, is amended by  
16 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as  
17 follows:

18           (a-1) In this subsection, "essential components of reading  
19 instruction," "reading," and "scientifically based reading  
20 research" have the meanings assigned by Section 1208, No Child Left  
21 Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6368). In addition to the  
22 standards established by the board under Subsection (a), each  
23 educator preparation program must require that a candidate for a  
24 certificate to teach at an elementary grade level or to teach  
25 reading at any grade level must complete training in reading  
26 instruction, including training in:

27           (1) the essential components of reading instruction;

- 1           (2) reading;
- 2           (3) spelling;
- 3           (4) grammar, punctuation, and capitalization skills;
- 4           (5) the diagnosis of reading deficiencies;
- 5           (6) strategies for early intervention in reading  
6 deficiencies;
- 7           (7) scientifically based reading research on the  
8 manner in which children learn to read;
- 9           (8) scientifically based reading research on the  
10 manner in which proficient readers read;
- 11           (9) the structure of the English language;
- 12           (10) the relationships among reading, writing, and  
13 spelling;
- 14           (11) planning and delivering appropriate reading  
15 instruction based on assessment and evaluation; and
- 16           (12) independent student reading of high quality books  
17 and the relationship of that reading to improved reading  
18 performance.

19           (c) The board shall propose rules establishing performance  
20 standards for the Accountability System for Educator Preparation  
21 for accrediting educator preparation programs. At a minimum,  
22 performance standards must be based on Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (a)  
23 and (a-1). The board shall propose rules for the sanction of  
24 educator preparation programs and shall annually review the  
25 accreditation status of each educator preparation program.

26           SECTION 3. Section 21.048(a), Education Code, is amended to  
27 read as follows:

1           (a) In this subsection, "essential components of reading  
2 instruction," "reading," and "scientifically based reading  
3 research" have the meanings assigned by Section 1208, No Child Left  
4 Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6368). The board shall  
5 propose rules prescribing comprehensive examinations for each  
6 class of certificate issued by the board. The rules must provide  
7 that the examination for a certificate under which a person may  
8 teach at an elementary grade level or teach reading at any grade  
9 level must assess mastery of reading instruction, including:

- 10                   (1) the essential components of reading instruction;
- 11                   (2) reading;
- 12                   (3) spelling;
- 13                   (4) grammar, punctuation, and capitalization skills;
- 14                   (5) the diagnosis of reading deficiencies;
- 15                   (6) strategies for early intervention in reading  
16 deficiencies;
- 17                   (7) scientifically based reading research on the  
18 manner in which children learn to read;
- 19                   (8) scientifically based reading research on the  
20 manner in which proficient readers read;
- 21                   (9) the structure of the English language;
- 22                   (10) the relationships among reading, writing, and  
23 spelling;
- 24                   (11) planning and delivering appropriate reading  
25 instruction based on assessment and evaluation; and
- 26                   (12) independent student reading of high quality books  
27 and the relationship of that reading to improved reading

1 performance.

2 SECTION 4. Section 21.451, Education Code, is amended by  
3 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

4 (b-1) The staff development must include, for teachers who  
5 teach reading at any grade level or special education, at least five  
6 days of training in the areas described by Section 21.044(b).

7 SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008  
8 school year.

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