

By: Rose, Martinez Fischer

H.B. No. 4152

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to certification of an educator in Texas who is certified
3 in another state or country.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 21.052, Education Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (e), (f), (g), and
7 (h) to read as follows:

8 (a) The board may issue a certificate to an educator who
9 applies for a certificate and:

10 (1) holds:

11 (A) a degree issued by an institution accredited
12 by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a
13 nationally recognized accreditation board; or

14 (B) a degree issued by an institution located in
15 a foreign country, if the degree is equivalent to a degree described
16 by Paragraph (A);

17 (2) holds an appropriate certificate or other
18 credential issued by another state or country; and

19 (3) performs satisfactorily on:

20 (A) the examination prescribed under Section
21 21.048; or

22 (B) if the educator holds a certificate or other
23 credential issued by another state or country, an examination
24 similar to and at least as rigorous as that described by Paragraph

1 (A) administered to the educator under the authority of that state.

2 (e) An educator who receives a certificate as provided by
3 Subsection (a) must perform satisfactorily on the examination
4 prescribed under Section 21.048 not later than the first
5 anniversary of the date the certificate under Subsection (a) was
6 issued.

7 (f) The board shall post on the board's Internet website the
8 procedures for obtaining a certificate under Subsection (a).

9 (g) The commissioner shall provide guidance to school
10 districts that employ an educator certified as provided by
11 Subsection (a) on procedures to classify the educator as a highly
12 qualified teacher in a manner consistent with the No Child Left
13 Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.).

14 (h) This subsection applies only to an applicant who holds a
15 certificate or other credential issued by another state or country
16 in mathematics, science, special education, or bilingual
17 education, or another subject area that the commissioner determines
18 has a shortage of teachers. In any state fiscal year, the board
19 shall accept or reject, not later than the 14th day after the date
20 the board receives the completed application, at least 90 percent
21 of the applications the board receives for a certificate under this
22 subsection, and shall accept or reject all completed applications
23 the board receives under this subsection not later than the 30th day
24 after the date the board receives the completed application. An
25 applicant under this subsection must submit:

26 (1) a letter of good standing from the state or country
27 in which the teacher is certified on a form determined by the board;

1 (2) information necessary to complete a national
2 criminal history record information review; and

3 (3) an application fee as required by the board.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.