

By: Farias

H.B. No. 1582

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorization for the operation in certain counties of an educator preparation program with an internship program component.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER P. EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM WITH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
COMPONENT IN CERTAIN COUNTIES

Sec. 21.801. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "institution of higher education" means a public senior college or university, as defined by Section 61.003, or a private or independent institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003.

Sec. 21.802. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only to:

(1) a school district located wholly or partly in a county with a population of one million or more and in which more than 80 percent of the population resides in a single municipality; and

(2) an institution of higher education located wholly or partly in a county described by Subdivision (1).

Sec. 21.803. EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM WITH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM COMPONENT. As provided by this subchapter, an institution of higher education may operate a graduate level educator

1 preparation program that includes, in collaboration with one or
2 more school districts, an internship program component.

3 Sec. 21.804. APPROVAL FOR PROGRAM. (a) The State Board for
4 Educator Certification shall propose rules, consistent with this
5 subchapter, establishing the standards governing the approval of an
6 educator preparation program with an internship program component.

7 (b) In proposing rules under Subsection (a), the State Board
8 for Educator Certification shall require an institution of higher
9 education to submit with an application a proposal with evidence of
10 the institution's collaboration with one or more school districts
11 to create an educator preparation program curriculum with an
12 internship program component that is responsive to the needs of
13 those districts. The proposal must include the following regarding
14 the educator preparation program:

15 (1) a curriculum;

16 (2) criteria for admission;

17 (3) a description of program delivery and evaluation;

18 (4) an internship program component, including:

19 (A) a general description of the internship
20 program;

21 (B) selection criteria for mentor teachers for
22 interns;

23 (C) a description of support and communication
24 among interns, mentor teachers, collaborating school districts,
25 and the educator preparation program;

26 (D) a description of intern supervision; and

27 (E) a description of the manner in which interns

1 are evaluated; and

2 (5) a plan to provide to program students for the
3 duration of the program educational and professional support
4 through seminars and professional development opportunities.

5 (c) The agency staff shall review and, as appropriate,
6 recommend to the State Board for Educator Certification whether an
7 application and proposal should be approved.

8 Sec. 21.805. INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS. (a) A student
9 enrolled in an educator preparation program under this subchapter
10 may not begin the internship program component before completing
11 the field-based experience required by State Board for Educator
12 Certification rule.

13 (b) The educator preparation program shall facilitate a
14 one-year paid internship contract between a program student and a
15 collaborating school district. The student and the district shall
16 negotiate the salary and benefits under the contract.

17 (c) The educator preparation program shall conduct
18 evaluations of each intern's professional development at the end of
19 each semester to ensure that the intern is making satisfactory
20 progress toward full educator certification.

21 (d) As part of the internship program, the intern must apply
22 for a probationary educator certificate. The educator preparation
23 program shall assist the intern in submitting an application for a
24 probationary certificate.

25 (e) As part of the internship program, the collaborating
26 school district shall assign a mentor teacher to the intern. During
27 the internship, the intern shall observe the mentor teacher

1 providing instruction to students for at least two hours at least
2 twice each semester, and the mentor teacher shall observe the
3 intern providing instruction to students for at least two hours at
4 least twice each semester.

5 (f) The educator preparation program shall maintain all
6 records verifying the intern's professional development,
7 evaluations of performance, and documentation relating to educator
8 certification.

9 Sec. 21.806. POST-INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS. The educator
10 preparation program shall, after a student has successfully
11 completed all educator preparation program requirements, including
12 the internship program, recommend, in conjunction with the
13 collaborating school district, the student to the State Board for
14 Educator Certification for appropriate educator certification.

15 Sec. 21.807. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF INSTITUTION OF
16 HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER PROGRAM. In addition to providing direct
17 educator preparation program services to program students, the
18 institution of higher education providing the educator preparation
19 program shall provide:

20 (1) an orientation for administrators of
21 collaborating school districts regarding district responsibilities
22 to supervise, support, and evaluate the professional development of
23 interns;

24 (2) mentor training to district mentor teachers
25 assigned to interns; and

26 (3) an orientation for educators of collaborating
27 districts and program students regarding applicable State Board for

Educator Certification rules.

Sec. 21.808. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COLLABORATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS. A school district that collaborates with an institution of higher education to offer an educator preparation program under this subchapter shall:

(1) make available one-year paid internship contracts for interns in the program;

(2) recruit mentor teachers to assign to interns employed by the district;

(3) supervise, support, and evaluate the professional development of the intern during the intern's internship with the district; and

(4) to the extent money is appropriated for the purpose, pay a stipend to a mentor teacher at the end of each semester that the teacher serves as a mentor teacher to an intern.

Sec. 21.809. EXAMINATION. (a) After a student's completion of an educator preparation program under this subchapter, the student shall complete at least two practice educator certification examinations.

(b) A student is not required to complete more than two practice examinations if the candidate completes a practice examination with a minimum score of 80 percent.

Sec. 21.810. The State Board for Educator Certification shall propose rules as necessary for the administration of this subchapter.

SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2012, the State Board for Educator Certification shall propose rules as necessary

1 relating to an educator preparation program with an internship
2 program component as described by Subchapter P, Chapter 21,
3 Education Code, as added by this Act.

4 SECTION 3. 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, 2011.