

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 54

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certification to teach public school students who have visual impairments.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.0485 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.0485. CERTIFICATION TO TEACH STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS. (a) To be eligible to be issued a certificate to teach students with visual impairments, a person must:

(1) complete either:

(A) all course work required for that certification in an approved educator preparation program; or

(B) an alternative educator certification program approved for the purpose by the board;

(2) perform satisfactorily on each examination prescribed under Section 21.048 for certification to teach students with visual impairments, after completing the course work or program described by Subdivision (1); and

(3) satisfy any other requirements prescribed by the board.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to eligibility for a certificate to teach students with visual impairments, including eligibility for renewal of that certificate, if the application for the initial certificate was submitted on or before September 1,

1 2011.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.