

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 1704

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to educator preparation programs.

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 proposing rules as required by Subsection (a), the board shall provide minimum content standards regarding the content that must be included in an educator preparation program administered by an undergraduate university for the following subject areas:

(1) English language arts;

(2) mathematics;

(3) science; and

(4) social studies.

(c) If the board does not propose rules regarding the minimum content standards for educator preparation programs as required by Subsection (b) on or before June 1, 2012, the minimum content standards recommended by the task force and adopted by the State Board of Education under Section 21.0453 take effect as rules

1 of the State Board for Educator Certification.

2 SECTION 2. Section 21.045, Education Code, is amended by
3 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

4 (d) The agency in cooperation with the Texas Higher
5 Education Coordinating Board shall conduct a review of all educator
6 preparation programs at least once each year. Not less than once
7 every three years, the agency and the coordinating board shall
8 conduct a review of an educator preparation program at the
9 program's campus.

10 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
11 amended by adding Sections 21.0453, 21.0454, 21.0455, and 21.0456
12 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 21.0453. TASK FORCE ON EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

14 (a) A task force is established under this section to recommend
15 standards for educator preparation programs and the implementation
16 of those standards.

17 (b) The commissioner of education and the commissioner of
18 higher education shall jointly appoint a presiding officer of the
19 task force. The Joint Select Committee for Teacher and Principal
20 Excellence established under Section 21.0455 must approve the
21 presiding officer. The presiding officer must:

22 (1) be a nationally recognized expert in teacher
23 education and preparation;

24 (2) have served as a presiding officer of a state or
25 national board or task force addressing teachers and the education
26 of teachers; and

27 (3) be an experienced and effective leader of an

1 educator preparation program or a college of education of a public
2 or private institution of higher education.

3 (c) The task force consists of members appointed jointly by
4 the commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher
5 education on the recommendation of the presiding officer of the
6 task force. The task force must include representatives of
7 educator preparation programs. The commissioners shall appoint the
8 members of the task force not later than December 1, 2011.

9 (d) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
10 task force.

11 (e) The task force shall recommend program standards for
12 educator preparation programs. The standards must include:

13 (1) educating a prospective teacher in a manner that
14 enables the prospective teacher to graduate with:

15 (A) an ability to deliver information and
16 instruction to students in a comprehensible manner; and

17 (B) detailed and specialized knowledge in the
18 academic content the teacher will teach;

19 (2) providing a range of settings that provide a
20 prospective teacher with an opportunity to practice the art of
21 teaching and receive feedback and coaching on the prospective
22 teacher's effectiveness, including learning in a laboratory
23 setting; and

24 (3) developing and administering a highly credible and
25 predictive assessment of professional knowledge and skill that
26 ensures each teacher enters the profession with a fundamental
27 capacity for effective performance as a beginning teacher.

1 (f) The task force shall recommend an implementation plan
2 for the standards adopted under Subsection (e). The plan must
3 include:

4 (1) developing a cooperative and collaborative
5 response from educator preparation programs for implementation of
6 the new standards;

7 (2) providing technical assistance to educator
8 preparation programs in implementing the standards;

9 (3) providing illustrative examples to educator
10 preparation programs for implementing the standards; and

11 (4) providing methods to evaluate educator
12 preparation programs for compliance with the standards.

13 (g) The task force shall develop the recommended standards
14 and implementation plan required by Subsections (e) and (f) and,
15 not later than June 1, 2012, shall submit the proposed standards and
16 plan to the State Board of Education for review. The State Board of
17 Education may reject the standards and plan by a vote of at least
18 two-thirds of the members of the board present and voting. If the
19 State Board of Education fails to reject the standards and plan
20 before the 90th day after the date on which it receives the
21 standards and plan, the standards and plan take effect as rules of
22 the State Board for Educator Certification as provided by Chapter
23 2001, Government Code, except as provided by Section 21.044. The
24 State Board of Education may not modify the standards and plan
25 proposed by the task force.

26 (h) Not later than January 1, 2013, the task force shall
27 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the

1 house of representatives, the presiding officer of each legislative
2 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
3 education, and the presiding officer of each legislative standing
4 committee with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary
5 education a written report that contains:

6 (1) the standards and the implementation plan
7 recommended by the task force and, if applicable, adopted by the
8 State Board of Education; and

9 (2) task force recommendations concerning statutory
10 changes necessary or appropriate to implement the standards and
11 plan.

12 (i) This section expires September 1, 2015.

13 Sec. 21.0454. IMPLEMENTATION OF TASK FORCE STANDARDS. (a)
14 Not later than January 1, 2013, the board shall implement the
15 standards recommended by the task force and adopted by the State
16 Board of Education under Section 21.0453. The board may not propose
17 to the State Board of Education a rule that does not comply with the
18 standards recommended by the task force.

19 (b) Not later than June 1, 2014, an educator certification
20 program must comply with the standards recommended by the task
21 force and adopted by the State Board of Education under Section
22 21.0453.

23 (c) Not later than June 1, 2015, the agency in cooperation
24 with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall conduct a
25 review of all educator preparation programs to determine compliance
26 with the standards implemented under this section. A review under
27 this section must be conducted on the campus of the educator

1 preparation program. Not later than the 90th day after the date a
2 review under this section is completed, the agency and the
3 coordinating board must notify a program whether the program
4 complies with the standards implemented under this section.

5 (d) An educator preparation program that does not comply
6 with the standards implemented under this section may request a
7 second review. The educator preparation program requesting review
8 is responsible for all costs associated with the second review. Not
9 later than January 1, 2016, an educator preparation program must
10 comply with the standards or the program is assigned an
11 accreditation status of not accredited-revoked and the program
12 shall be closed by the board.

13 (e) This section expires September 1, 2016.

14 Sec. 21.0455. JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE FOR TEACHER AND
15 PRINCIPAL EXCELLENCE. (a) In this section, "committee" means the
16 Joint Select Committee for Teacher and Principal Excellence.

17 (b) The Joint Select Committee for Teacher and Principal
18 Excellence is established to oversee and monitor the implementation
19 of statutes relating to teacher and principal effectiveness.

20 (c) The committee is composed of 15 members as follows:

21 (1) the presiding officers of the legislative standing
22 committees of each house of the legislature with primary
23 jurisdiction over public education;

24 (2) the presiding officers of the legislative standing
25 committees of each house of the legislature with primary
26 jurisdiction over higher education;

27 (3) the commissioner of education;

1 (4) the commissioner of higher education;

2 (5) one dean of a college of education of an
3 institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, one
4 classroom teacher, and one representative from an alternative
5 certification program, each currently employed in this state and
6 each appointed jointly by the lieutenant governor and the speaker
7 of the house of representatives;

8 (6) two educators currently employed in this state and
9 each appointed jointly by the lieutenant governor and the speaker
10 of the house of representatives;

11 (7) one member who represents the business community
12 or the public, appointed by the lieutenant governor;

13 (8) one member who represents the business community
14 or the public, appointed by the speaker of the house of
15 representatives; and

16 (9) two members who represent the business community
17 or the public, appointed by the governor, one of whom has at least
18 one child who attends a public school in this state.

19 (d) The governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the
20 house of representatives shall make the appointments required by
21 Subsection (c) in a timely manner.

22 (e) The agency shall periodically report to the committee
23 regarding any statutory initiative adopted by the 82nd Legislature,
24 Regular Session, 2011, relating to teacher and principal quality.
25 The report must be:

26 (1) prepared by the person at the agency charged with
27 overseeing the implementation of the initiative; and

1 (2) submitted in writing, unless the committee
2 requests the person providing the report to appear in person at a
3 hearing of the committee.

4 (f) This section expires September 1, 2016.

5 Sec. 21.0456. TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATOR EXCELLENCE. (a)
6 In this section, "institute" means the Texas Institute for Educator
7 Excellence.

8 (b) The commissioner of education and the commissioner of
9 higher education shall develop and implement the Texas Institute
10 for Educator Excellence.

11 (c) The commissioners shall adopt a plan for the selection
12 and design of the institute. The plan developed by the
13 commissioners must be submitted for approval to the Joint Select
14 Committee for Teacher and Principal Excellence established under
15 Section 21.0455.

16 (d) After the plan is adopted and approved as provided by
17 Subsection (c), the commissioners shall issue a request for
18 proposal to select a college of education of an institution of
19 higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, to serve as the
20 institute.

21 (e) Not later than June 1, 2013, the institute shall
22 implement the standards recommended by the task force and adopted
23 by the State Board of Education under Section 21.0453. The
24 institute will serve as a demonstration site for the educator
25 preparation standards recommended by the task force.

26 (f) Subsections (c), (d), (e), and this subsection expire
27 September 1, 2016.

1 (g) After the educator preparation standards are
2 implemented, the institute will serve as the state's center for
3 reform-oriented and innovative practice, high-quality research,
4 and model programs relating to educator quality and effectiveness.

5 SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 21.0501 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 21.0501. ACCEPTANCE AND GRADUATION IN MASTER'S DEGREE
8 PROGRAM. (a) Before January 1, 2012, the commissioner, in
9 consultation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board,
10 shall evaluate:

11 (1) admission requirements for master's degree
12 programs in teaching; and

13 (2) graduation requirements for master's degree
14 programs in teaching.

15 (b) Before June 1, 2012, the commissioner, in consultation
16 with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall adopt
17 rules:

18 (1) increasing the academic standards for admission to
19 a master's degree program in teaching;

20 (2) increasing the graduation requirements for a
21 master's degree program in teaching; and

22 (3) providing for the applicability of the increased
23 standards and requirements to students enrolled in a master's
24 degree program in teaching.

25 (c) This section expires September 1, 2012.

26 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.