

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 218  
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Public Education  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

According to interested parties, school districts across Texas are experiencing issues finding bilingual education educators. Current law requires a teacher assigned to a bilingual education program to be appropriately certified for bilingual education by the State Board for Educator Certification, but, the parties note, this falls short of specifying which bilingual education models are recommended. C.S.H.B. 218 seeks to address this issue.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 218 amends the Education Code to specify the different program models for which a teacher assigned to a bilingual education program must be appropriately certified for bilingual education by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). The bill requires one category of bilingual education certification for a teacher assigned to a bilingual education program using the transitional bilingual/early exit program model or the transitional bilingual/late exit program model. The bill also requires a teacher assigned to a bilingual education program using a dual language immersion/one-way or two-way program model to be appropriately certified by SBEC for bilingual education for the component of the program provided in a language other than English and for bilingual education or English as a second language for the component of the program provided in English. The bill authorizes a school district that provides a bilingual education program using a dual language immersion/one-way or two-way program model to assign a teacher certified by SBEC for bilingual education for the language other than English component of the program and a different teacher certified by SBEC for bilingual education or English as a second language to the English language component. The bill removes the requirement that a teacher assigned to a special language program other than an English as a second language program be appropriately certified for English as a second language by SBEC. The bill's provisions apply beginning with the 2015–2016 school year.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2015.

## **COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE**

While C.S.H.B. 218 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following comparison is organized and formatted in a manner that indicates the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

### **INTRODUCED**

SECTION 1. Section 29.061, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to read as follows:

(b) A teacher assigned to a bilingual education program using one of the following program models must be appropriately certified for bilingual education by the board:

(1) transitional bilingual/early exit program model;

(2) transitional bilingual/late exit program model; or

(3) dual language immersion/one-way program model.

(b-1) A teacher assigned to a bilingual education program using a dual language immersion/two-way program model must be appropriately certified by the board for:

(1) bilingual education for the component of the program provided in a language other than English; and

(2) bilingual education or English as a second language for the component of the program provided in English.

(b-2) A school district that provides a bilingual education program using a dual language immersion/two-way program model may assign different teachers to the language other than English component of the program and to the English language component.

(c) A teacher assigned to an English as a second language [~~or other special language~~] program must be appropriately certified for English as a second language by the board.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article

### **HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE**

SECTION 1. Section 29.061, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to read as follows:

(b) A teacher assigned to a bilingual education program using one of the following program models must be appropriately certified for bilingual education by the board:

(1) transitional bilingual/early exit program model; or

(2) transitional bilingual/late exit program model.

(b-1) A teacher assigned to a bilingual education program using a dual language immersion/one-way or two-way program model must be appropriately certified by the board for:

(1) bilingual education for the component of the program provided in a language other than English; and

(2) bilingual education or English as a second language for the component of the program provided in English.

(b-2) A school district that provides a bilingual education program using a dual language immersion/one-way or two-way program model may assign a teacher certified under Subsection (b-1)(1) for the language other than English component of the program and a different teacher certified under Subsection (b-1)(2) for the English language component.

(c) A teacher assigned to an English as a second language [~~or other special language~~] program must be appropriately certified for English as a second language by the board.

SECTION 2. Same as introduced version.

SECTION 3. Same as introduced version.

III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.