

By: Sanford

H.B. No. 874

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to employment of persons with advanced degrees as public school teachers.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.003, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1), a [A] person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B.

(a-1) Subject to the approval of the principal at the campus to which the person is assigned, a person with at least a master's degree in a subject may be employed as a teacher by a school district to teach that subject to students in grade levels 7 through 12 regardless of whether the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B. For purposes of this subsection, a person's degree must be issued by an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a nationally recognized accreditation board or be an equivalent degree issued by an institution located in a foreign country.

1 SECTION 2. Section 21.057(d), Education Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (d) For purposes of this section, "inappropriately
4 certified or uncertified teacher":

5 (1) includes:

6 (A) an individual serving on an emergency
7 certificate issued under Section 21.041(b)(2); or

8 (B) an individual who does not hold any
9 certificate or permit issued under this chapter and is not employed
10 as specified by Subdivision (2)(E) or (G); and

11 (2) does not include an individual:

12 (A) who is a certified teacher assigned to teach
13 a class or classes outside his or her area of certification, as
14 determined by rules proposed by the board in specifying the
15 certificate required for each assignment;

16 (B) serving on a certificate issued due to a
17 hearing impairment under Section 21.048;

18 (C) serving on a certificate issued pursuant to
19 enrollment in an approved alternative certification program under
20 Section 21.049;

21 (D) certified by another state or country and
22 serving on a certificate issued under Section 21.052;

23 (E) serving on a school district teaching permit
24 issued under Section 21.055; ~~or~~

25 (F) employed under a waiver granted by the
26 commissioner pursuant to Section 7.056; or

27 (G) employed in accordance with Section

1 [21.003\(a-1\)](#).

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.