

By: Capriglione

H.B. No. 1300

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the required qualifications of persons admitted to educator preparation programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.0441, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21.0441. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS. ~~[(a)]~~ Rules of the board proposed under this subchapter must provide that a person, other than a person seeking career and technology education certification, is not eligible for admission to an educator preparation program, including an alternative educator preparation program, unless the person:

(1) ~~[except as provided by Subsection (b),]~~ satisfies minimum grade point average requirements prescribed by the board, not to exceed the following:

(A) an overall grade point average of at least 2.75 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on any course work previously attempted at a public or private institution of higher education; or

(B) a grade point average of at least 2.75 on a four-point scale or the equivalent for the last 60 semester credit hours attempted at a public or private institution of higher education; and

1 (2) if the person is seeking initial certification:

2 (A) has successfully completed at least:

3 (i) 15 semester credit hours in the  
4 subject-specific content area in which the person is seeking  
5 certification, if the person is seeking certification to teach  
6 mathematics or science at or above grade level seven; or

7 (ii) 12 semester credit hours in the  
8 subject-specific content area in which the person is seeking  
9 certification, if the person is not seeking certification to teach  
10 mathematics or science at or above grade level seven; or

11 (B) has achieved a satisfactory level of  
12 performance on a content certification examination, which may be a  
13 content certification examination administered by a vendor  
14 approved by the commissioner for purposes of administering such an  
15 examination for the year for which the person is applying for  
16 admission to the program.

17 ~~[(b) The board's rules must permit an educator preparation~~  
18 ~~program to admit in extraordinary circumstances a person who fails~~  
19 ~~to satisfy a grade point average requirement prescribed by~~  
20 ~~Subsection (a)(1)(A) or (B), provided that:~~

21 ~~[(1) not more than 10 percent of the total number of~~  
22 ~~persons admitted to the program in a year fail to satisfy the~~  
23 ~~requirement under Subsection (a)(1)(A) or (B), and~~

24 ~~[(2) for each person admitted as described by this~~  
25 ~~subsection, the director of the program determines and certifies,~~  
26 ~~based on documentation provided by the person, that the person's~~  
27 ~~work, business, or career experience demonstrates achievement~~

1 ~~comparable to the academic achievement represented by the grade~~  
2 ~~point average requirement.]~~

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.