87R617 MP-F

By:  Lucio S.B. No. 559

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to teacher certification examinations in bilingual target language proficiency and to certification requirements for teachers in bilingual education.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 29.061, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (b-3) and (b-4) to read as follows:

(b-3)  For a bilingual target language proficiency certification examination prescribed under Section 21.048(a), the commissioner shall adopt satisfactory levels of performance differentiated for each grade level based on the level of language proficiency required to teach that language in a bilingual education program at that grade level. An educator preparation program may not be penalized under Section 21.045 for a candidate that meets the lowest satisfactory level of performance adopted under this subsection on a bilingual target language proficiency certification examination, regardless of the grade level for which the candidate was seeking certification.

(b-4)  Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, a teacher may only be assigned to a bilingual education program, or, for a bilingual education program described by Subsection (b-1), for the component of the program provided in a language other than English, at a grade level for which the teacher has achieved on the applicable bilingual target language proficiency certification examination the satisfactory level of performance for that grade level adopted by the commissioner under Subsection (b-3). A teacher appropriately certified in bilingual education before January 1, 2022, may be assigned to a bilingual education program at any grade level.

SECTION 2.  Not later than January 1, 2022, the commissioner of education shall adopt the satisfactory levels of performance as required by Section 29.061(b-3), Education Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3.  Section 29.061(b-4), Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.