

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 559

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to teacher certification examinations in bilingual target
3 language proficiency and to certification requirements for
4 teachers in bilingual education.

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

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

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

19 (b-4) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, a
20 teacher may only be assigned to a bilingual education program, or,
21 for a bilingual education program described by Subsection (b-1),
22 for the component of the program provided in a language other than
23 English, at a grade level for which the teacher has achieved on the
24 applicable bilingual target language proficiency certification

1 examination the satisfactory level of performance for that grade
2 level adopted by the commissioner under Subsection (b-3). A teacher
3 appropriately certified in bilingual education before January 1,
4 2022, may be assigned to a bilingual education program at any grade
5 level.

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

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

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