

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 621

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating a temporary educator certification for certain military service members.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.0444 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.0444. TEMPORARY CERTIFICATION TO TEACH CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS. (a) This section applies to a person seeking certification to teach career and technology education who:

(1) has served in the armed forces of the United States; and

(2) was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty.

(b) The board shall propose rules under this subchapter providing for the issuance of a temporary certificate to teach career and technology education to a person described by Subsection (a) who meets all other eligibility requirements for standard certification to teach career and technology education, except that the person may substitute for a requirement that the person hold:

(1) an associate degree from an accredited institution of higher education, 48 months of active duty military service described by Subsection (a); or

(2) a bachelor's degree:

1           (A) the military service described by  
2 Subdivision (1); and

3           (B) 60 semester credit hours completed at a  
4 public or private institution of higher education with a minimum  
5 grade point average of at least 2.50 on a four-point scale.

6           (c) Rules proposed by the board for a temporary certificate  
7 issued under this section must provide that the certificate is:

8                   (1) valid for no more than three years;

9                   (2) limited to a one-time issuance; and

10                   (3) not subject to renewal.

11           (d) A person issued a temporary certificate under this  
12 section may be issued a standard certificate if the person  
13 completes all eligibility requirements required for that  
14 certification.

15           (e) A school district shall require a new employee who holds  
16 a temporary certificate issued under this section to obtain at  
17 least 20 hours of classroom management training, unless the new  
18 employee has documented experience as an instructor or trainer  
19 during the employee's required 48 months of active duty military  
20 service.

21           SECTION 2. Section 21.458, Education Code, is amended by  
22 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-2) to read as  
23 follows:

24           (a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-2), each ~~Each~~  
25 school district may assign a mentor teacher to each classroom  
26 teacher who has less than two years of teaching experience in the  
27 subject or grade level to which the teacher is assigned. A teacher

1 assigned as a mentor must:

2 (1) to the extent practicable, teach in the same  
3 school;

4 (2) to the extent practicable, teach the same subject  
5 or grade level, as applicable; and

6 (3) meet the qualifications prescribed by  
7 commissioner rules adopted under Subsection (b).

8 (a-2) A school district shall assign a mentor teacher to a  
9 classroom teacher who has been issued a temporary certificate to  
10 teach career and technology education under Section 21.0444 for at  
11 least two school years.

12 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
13 of this Act, the State Board for Educator Certification shall  
14 propose rules relating to temporary certificates to teach career  
15 and technology education for certain military service members as  
16 required by Section 21.0444, Education Code, as added by this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.