

AN ACT

relating to creating a temporary certification to teach career and technology education for certain military service members and first responders.

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 FOR CERTAIN MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS. (a) In this section, "first responder" means a person elected, employed, or appointed as:

(1) a peace officer as defined by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure;

(2) fire protection personnel as defined by Section 419.021, Government Code; or

(3) emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

(b) 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 was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty; or

(2) has served as a first responder and, while in good standing and not because of pending or final disciplinary actions or a documented performance problem, retired, resigned, or

1 separated from employment as a first responder.

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

8 (1) an associate degree from an accredited institution  
9 of higher education, 48 months of active duty military service or  
10 service as a first responder; or

11 (2) a bachelor's degree:

12 (A) the military service or service as a first  
13 responder described by Subdivision (1); and

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

17 (d) Rules proposed by the board for a temporary certificate  
18 issued under this section must provide that the certificate is:

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

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

21 (3) not subject to renewal.

22 (e) A person issued a temporary certificate under this  
23 section may be issued a standard certificate if the person  
24 completes all eligibility requirements required for that  
25 certification.

26 (f) A school district shall require a new employee who holds  
27 a temporary certificate issued under this section to obtain at

1 least 20 hours of classroom management training, unless the new  
2 employee has documented experience as an instructor or trainer  
3 during the employee's required 48 months of active duty military  
4 service or service as a first responder.

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

8 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-2), each ~~Each~~  
9 school district may assign a mentor teacher to each classroom  
10 teacher who has less than two years of teaching experience in the  
11 subject or grade level to which the teacher is assigned. A teacher  
12 assigned as a mentor must:

13 (1) to the extent practicable, teach in the same  
14 school;

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

17 (3) meet the qualifications prescribed by  
18 commissioner rules adopted under Subsection (b).

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

23 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
24 of this Act, the State Board for Educator Certification shall  
25 propose rules relating to temporary certificates to teach career  
26 and technology education for certain military service members and  
27 first responders as required by Section 21.0444, Education Code, as

1 added by this Act.

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

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 621 was passed by the House on May 2, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 107, Nays 34, 2 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 621 on May 23, 2023, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 621 on May 28, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 113, Nays 25, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 621

I certify that H.B. No. 621 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 16, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 23, Nays 8; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 621 on May 28, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 23, Nays 8.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor