

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 621

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 621:

By: Buckley

C.S.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 FOR CERTAIN MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS. (a) This section applies to a person seeking certification 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 a person described by Subsection (a) who meets all other eligibility requirements for standard certification, 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:

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

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

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

6 (1) valid for no more than five years;

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

8 (3) not subject to renewal.

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

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

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

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

27 (1) to the extent practicable, teach in the same

1 school;

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

4 (3) meet the qualifications prescribed by
5 commissioner rules adopted under Subsection (b).

6 (a-2) A school district shall assign a mentor teacher to a
7 classroom teacher who has been issued a temporary certificate under
8 Section 21.0444 for at least two school years.

9 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
10 of this Act, the State Board for Educator Certification shall
11 propose rules relating to temporary educator certificates for
12 certain military service members as required by Section 21.0444,
13 Education Code, as added by this Act.

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