

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 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 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; or

(2) a bachelor's degree:

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

(B) 60 semester credit hours completed at a

1 public or private institution of higher education with a minimum  
2 grade point average of at least 2.50 on a four-point scale.

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

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

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

7 (3) not subject to renewal.

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

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

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

20 (1) to the extent practicable, teach in the same  
21 school;

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

24 (3) meet the qualifications prescribed by  
25 commissioner rules adopted under Subsection (b).

26 (a-2) A school district shall assign a mentor teacher to a  
27 classroom teacher who has been issued a temporary certificate under

1 Section 21.0444 for at least two school years.

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

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