

House Bill 621
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

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

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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 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 separated from employment as a first responder.

(c) The board shall propose rules under this subchapter providing for the issuance of a temporary certificate to a person described by Subsection (b) 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 or service as a first responder; or

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- (2) a bachelor's degree;
- (A) the military service described by Subdivision (1); and
- (B) 60 semester credit hours completed at a public or private institution of higher education with a minimum grade point average of at least 2.50 on a four-point scale.
- (c) Rules proposed by the board for a temporary certificate issued under this section must provide that the certificate is:
 - (1) valid for no more than three years;
 - (2) limited to a one-time issuance; and
 - (3) not subject to renewal.
- (d) A person issued a temporary certificate under this section may be issued a standard certificate if the person completes all eligibility requirements required for that certification.
- (e) A school district shall require a new employee who holds a temporary certificate issued under this section to obtain at least 20 hours of classroom management training, unless the new employee has documented experience as an instructor or trainer during the employee's required 48 months of active duty military service.

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

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

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- (2) a bachelor's degree;
- (A) the military service or service as a first responder described by Subdivision (1); and
- (B) 60 semester credit hours completed at a public or private institution of higher education with a minimum grade point average of at least 2.50 on a four-point scale.
- (d) Rules proposed by the board for a temporary certificate issued under this section must provide that the certificate is:
 - (1) valid for no more than three years;
 - (2) limited to a one-time issuance; and
 - (3) not subject to renewal.
- (e) A person issued a temporary certificate under this section may be issued a standard certificate if the person completes all eligibility requirements required for that certification.
- (f) A school district shall require a new employee who holds a temporary certificate issued under this section to obtain at least 20 hours of classroom management training, unless the new employee has documented experience as an instructor or trainer during the employee's required 48 months of active duty military service or service as a first responder.

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

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

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- (1) to the extent practicable, teach in the same school;
 - (2) to the extent practicable, teach the same subject or grade level, as applicable; and
 - (3) meet the qualifications prescribed by commissioner rules adopted under Subsection (b).
- (a-2) A school district shall assign a mentor teacher to a classroom teacher who has been issued a temporary certificate to teach career and technology education under Section 21.0444 for at least two school years.

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

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

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- (1) to the extent practicable, teach in the same school;
 - (2) to the extent practicable, teach the same subject or grade level, as applicable; and
 - (3) meet the qualifications prescribed by commissioner rules adopted under Subsection (b).
- (a-2) A school district shall assign a mentor teacher to a classroom teacher who has been issued a temporary certificate under Section 21.0444 for at least two school years.

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

SECTION 4. Same as House version.

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