

SUBJECT: Fast-track certification for certain teachers from out of state

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Eissler, Hochberg, Allen, Aycock, Dutton, Jackson, Patrick, Shelton

0 nays

3 absent — Farias, Olivo, Weber

WITNESSES: For — Monty Exter, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Lisa Gardner; Alejandra Martin, Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators; Brooke Terry, Texas Public Policy Foundation; (*Registered, but did not testify:* David Duty, Texas Association of Community Schools; Harley Eckhart, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; Andrew Erben, Texas Institute for Education Reform, Texas Association of Business; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Julie Shields, Texas Associations of School Boards)

Against — None

On — Raymond Glynn, Texas Education Agency

DIGEST: HB 4152 would require the State Board for Educator Certification to grant certification to a teacher from outside the state who had:

- a baccalaureate degree;
- a teaching certificate from another state or country that is equivalent to a Texas teaching certificate;
- passed a certification test of equal rigor to the Texas teacher certification exam; and
- been certified to teach in mathematics, science, special education, bilingual education, or any other subject area the commissioner of education determined to have a shortage of teachers.

Within two years of acquiring certification in Texas, the teacher would have to pass the Texas teacher certification examination.

The State Board for Educator Certification would be required to post this procedure on its website. The commissioner of education would provide guidance to schools districts that employ teachers certified in this manner on the procedures to classify those teachers as highly qualified consistent with federal No Child Left Behind standards.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 4152 would enable teachers from outside the state who are certified to teach subjects in which there is a shortage of properly certified teachers to begin teaching in Texas classrooms sooner. The rigid timetable for submitting paperwork and passing the Texas certification exam under current law prevents some qualified teachers from being able to enter the classroom right away. This bill would simplify the certification process for out-of-state teachers.

Because HB 4152 would not amend any other section of the code, this bill would not exempt out-of-state teachers from any other condition an individual must meet to become certified to teach in Texas, including a criminal background check.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

HB 4152 could require the State Board for Educator Certification to certify teachers from out-of-state without a criminal background check or other eligibility standards that would prohibit the issuance of a teaching certificate.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 2206 by Van de Putte, was reported, favorably as substituted, by the Senate Education Committee on April 24.