

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 2249  
By: Zaffirini  
Education  
4/28/2009  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Currently, teachers of children with visual impairments can be certified without appropriate training if they pass the two required state certification examinations. Insufficient instruction by these teachers can cause significant harm to these children, whose safety and education are already at risk due to their visual impairment. This bill would prevent teachers of children with visual impairments from being certified by passing the two required state certification exams only. This bill would require teachers to complete all of the required coursework prior to taking the certification exams.

C.S.S.B. 2249 relates to a certification program for teachers of students with visual impairments.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 30.002, Education Code, by amending Subsection (g) and adding Subsection (h), as follows:

(g) Requires an educator, to become certified as a teacher of students with visual impairments, to successfully complete all coursework required by a State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC)-approved preparation program in that field, and pass the SBEC-approved examinations for certification in braille and in visual impairments.

(h) Creates this subsection from existing text. Makes no further changes to this subsection.

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act does not apply to a certification to teach students with visual impairments granted or applied for before the effective date of this Act, including the renewal of the certification.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2009.