

- SUBJECT:** Creating abbreviated educator preparation for certain certifications
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Dutton, Allison, K. Bell, Bernal, Buckley, Huberty, K. King, Meza, Talarico, VanDeaver
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Lozano, Allen
- 1 present not voting — M. González
- WITNESSES:** For — Brian Holt, Randolph Field ISD; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Taylor Sims, Project Lead the Way; Starlee Coleman, Texas Public Charter School Association; Gilbert Zavala, The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; Annemarie Donnelly)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Dena Donaldson, Texas AFT; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Carrie Griffith, Texas State Teachers Association)
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Eric Marin and Jessica McLoughlin, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code ch. 21, subch. B establishes the State Board for Educator Certification to regulate and oversee all aspects of the certification, continuing education, and standards of conduct of public school educators.
- DIGEST:** HB 622 would require the State Board for Educator Certification to propose rules to create abbreviated educator preparation programs for a person seeking a certification to teach courses in marketing and a

certification to teach courses in health science technology.

In proposing rules, the board would have to ensure that each program required at least 200 hours of coursework or training.

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, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

HB 622 would address a shortage of technical skill educators by creating abbreviated certification for teachers of marketing and health science technology. The abbreviated certification would provide a path for individuals who had worked in these fields, including retirees, to pass on to students the skills they learned over their careers. These candidates for certification already understand the subject content and the bill would require them to complete 200 hours of coursework or training to ensure they were ready for the classroom.

While some say the bill would lower the bar for educator certification, the individuals targeted by the bill have many years of experience, knowledge, and hands-on skills that they could use to help build the pool of workers needed in these fields.

**CRITICS  
SAY:**

HB 622 could unnecessarily lower the bar for educator certification and potentially place students in the care of teachers who were underprepared for the rigors of the classroom. State law already requires special accommodations for individuals seeking health science technology certification and provides expedited routes to certification for subject areas for which there may be a shortage of teachers.