

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1721
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Education
5/28/2001(REVISED)
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

As a result of a statewide teacher shortage, Texas has resorted to alternative educator certification programs and emergency teaching permits for individuals who are not certified. These are programs that may compromise the quality of education. At the same time, educators outside of Texas must take a certification examination to be certified to teach in Texas, even if they are certified to teach in another state and have passed rigorous requirements and examinations. This policy impedes teacher mobility and contributes to the teacher shortage in Texas. H.B. 1721 authorizes the State Board for Educator Certification to issue a teacher's certificate to teachers who have been certified outside of Texas, without requiring the teacher to pass the certification examination.

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 21.052(a), Education Code, to authorize the State Board of Educator Certification (board) to issue a certificate to an educator if the educator holds a certificate or other credential issued by another state or country, an examination similar to and at least as rigorous as that described by Paragraph (A) administered to the educator under the authority of that state.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.