
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 273

AN ACT CONCERNING A REVIEW OF THE STATUTES GOVERNING TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND THE CREATION OF A CAREER AND TECHNICAL PATHWAYS INSTRUCTOR PERMIT.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the state Board of Education (SBE) to issue career and technical pathways instructor permits if requested by a local or regional board of education or regional educational service center (RESC). Under the bill, these permits allow individuals who meet specified criteria to teach part-time in a specialized field (i.e., manufacturing, allied health, computer technology, engineering, or the construction trades) for the 2022 and 2023 school years.

The bill requires the employing board or RESC to provide a program, developed in consultation with the state Department of Education (SDE), to help these permitted instructors with academic and classroom supports. The bill prohibits these instructors from filling a position at a school that will displace a certified teacher employed there.

The bill also requires SDE to review the state's teacher certification statutes and regulations. The review must (1) identify obsolete provisions; (2) evaluate the existing requirements' effectiveness; and (3) analyze whether any of the laws create a barrier to entry or undue hardship for (a) teacher candidate recruitment or retention, including state reciprocity (including Puerto Rico) or (b) addressing student academic needs. SDE must report its findings and recommendations to the Education Committee by January 1, 2023.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022, except the review of teacher certification laws is effective upon passage.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL PATHWAYS INSTRUCTOR PERMITS

Under the bill, the SBE-issued permit authorizes a person with specialized training, experience, or expertise in one of the fields described above to teach up to 20 classroom instructional hours per week in his or her field. To qualify, the person must have (1) an associate's or bachelor's degree or a qualifying credential (see below) in the specialized field and (2) at least two years of experience in one of those fields.

Under the bill, the individual's degree must be from an institution that is regionally accredited or accredited by either the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education. By law and under the bill, a "credential" is a documented award issued by an authorized body, including any:

1. degree or certificate awarded by a higher education institution, private occupational school, or SBE-approved alternate route to certification program provider;
2. certification awarded through an exam process designed to demonstrate an individual's knowledge, skill, and ability to perform a specific job;
3. government-issued license that allows a qualifying individual to practice a specific occupation; and
4. documented completion of an apprenticeship or job training program.

Under the bill, the career and technical pathways instructor permit is valid only for the 2022 and 2023 school years. While employed, these instructors must be supervised by the school superintendent or his or her designee (e.g., a principal or administrator). The designated supervisor must regularly observe, guide, and evaluate the instructor's performance.

Under the bill, permitted instructors are not eligible for the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) solely by holding a permit, but they are not

excluded from TRS membership if they have a regular SBE-issued teacher's certificate.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference - APP

Yea 39 Nay 0 (03/25/2022)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/07/2022)