

- SUBJECT:** Certifying educators whose spouses are active duty military
- COMMITTEE:** Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Gutierrez, Blanco, Arévalo, Cain, Flynn, Lambert, Wilson
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations; James Cunningham, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations, Texas Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America; Elizabeth Lee)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Dale Vandehey, Department of Defense State Liaison Office; Marilyn Cook, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, sec. 21.052 allows the State Board of Educator Certification to certify out-of-state teachers who move to Texas. The teacher must hold a teaching certificate issued by another state and a degree from an accredited institution.

If the candidate has not passed the Texas teacher certification exam or a similar exam, the teacher may be awarded a temporary certificate for a period specified by the board. Before receiving a standard certificate, the holder of a temporary certificate must meet the examination requirements within one year of being notified of them.

Some observers note that spouses of active duty military service members who are qualified to teach in another state would benefit, while living in Texas, from an expedited application process that results in a three-year temporary teaching certificate that corresponds with a typical duration of a military reassignment.
- DIGEST:** HB 1934 would require the State Board of Educator Certification to

propose rules establishing procedures to expedite teacher certification application processing for a teacher who was also the spouse of an active-duty U.S. military service member. Rules proposed would include those for providing appropriate documentation to establish that the teacher was a military service member's spouse.

A temporary certificate issued to the teacher married to the military service member could not expire earlier than three years from the date the board had reviewed the teacher's credentials and the educator was notified of the examination requirements for receiving a standard certificate.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have an estimated negative impact of \$204,848 on general revenue related funds through fiscal 2018-19 due to information technology requirements associated with supporting the new certificate.