

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing issuance of educator certificates for certain veterans

**COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Buckley, Allison, Cunningham, Cody Harris, Harrison, Hefner, K. King, Longoria, Schaefer

3 nays — Allen, Hinojosa, Talarico

1 present not voting — Dutton

**WITNESSES:** For — Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations  
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Bryce Adams, Texas Public Charter Schools Association)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Alejandro Pena, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Carrie Griffith, Texas State Teachers Association)

On — Tricia Cave, Association of Texas Professional Educators  
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Marilyn Cook, Eric Marin, Texas Education Agency)

**BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that issuing temporary educator certificates to certain qualified individuals, such as veterans, could help lessen the negative impact of the state’s teacher shortage.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 621 would require the State Board for Educator Certification to propose rules for the issuance of a temporary certificate to a person who served in the U.S. armed forces and was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty and met all other eligibility requirements for standard certification.

Such a person could substitute certain educational requirements with military service. For an associate degree from an accredited higher education institution, the person could substitute 48 months of active duty

service. For a bachelor's degree, the person could substitute 48 months of active duty service and 60 semester credit hours completed at a higher education institution with a grade point average of at least 2.50 on a four point scale.

Rules proposed by the board would provide that the certificate was valid for no more than five years, limited to a one-time issuance, and not subject to renewal.

The bill would allow a person issued a temporary educator certificate under the bill to be issued a standard certificate if the person completed all eligibility requirements for that certification. A school district would require a new employee who held a temporary certificate to obtain at least 20 hours of classroom management training, unless the new employee had documented experience as an instructor or trainer while in the military.

A school district would assign a mentor teacher to a classroom teacher who was issued a temporary certificate under the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.