

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1834

Introduced by Assembly Member Coto

January 23, 2008

An act to amend Section 44253.7 of the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1834, as introduced, Coto. Teacher credentialing: bilingual-crosscultural competence.

Existing law authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue certificates of bilingual-crosscultural competence to specified holders of credentials who will be serving limited-English-proficient pupils. Existing law requires candidates for the certificate to demonstrate certain abilities by oral and written examination.

This bill would alternatively authorize candidates to demonstrate those abilities by passing courses specified by the commission.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44253.7 of the Education Code is
2 amended to read:
3 44253.7. (a) In addition to the certificates authorized in
4 Sections 44253.5 and 56362.7, the Commission on Teacher
5 Credentialing, based upon the availability of funds, shall develop
6 objective and verifiable standards for a certificate of
7 bilingual-crosscultural competence for holders of any appropriate

1 credential, certificate, authorization, or permit who will be serving
2 limited-English-proficient pupils. These certificates may be issued
3 to persons holding any appropriate credential or authorization
4 issued by the commission, including, but not limited to, counselors;
5 special education professionals, including, but not limited to, the
6 holders of special education credentials, clinical services
7 credentials, and school psychologist authorizations; and child
8 development and preschool professionals.

9 (b) Candidates for the certificate ~~shall~~, *either* by oral and written
10 examination, *or by passing courses specified by the commission*,
11 *shall* demonstrate all of the following:

12 (1) That the person is competent in both the oral and written
13 skills of a language other than English.

14 (2) That the person is competent in both the oral and written
15 skills in the English language. A passing score on the reading and
16 writing portions of the basic skills proficiency test administered
17 pursuant to Section 44252.5 or pursuant to paragraph (1) of
18 subdivision (b) of Section 44830 shall satisfy the written skills
19 portion of this requirement.

20 (3) That the person has both the knowledge and understanding
21 of the cultural and historical heritage of the
22 limited-English-proficient individuals to be served.

23 (4) That the person has the ability to perform the services the
24 candidate is certified or authorized to perform in English and in a
25 language other than English.

26 (c) The commission may develop rules and regulations setting
27 forth objective and verifiable standards for approval of training
28 programs leading to the certificates authorized by this section.

29 (d) For the purpose of assessing the qualifications established
30 by the ~~Commission on Teacher Credentialing~~ *commission* in
31 accordance with this section, the commission shall develop rules,
32 regulations, or guidelines establishing an assessment system which
33 may include local education agencies, institutions of higher
34 education, and qualified nonprofit bilingual testing agencies as
35 assessor agencies.

36 (e) It is not the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section
37 that possession of any certificate established by this section be a

- 1 state-mandated requirement for employment. It is the intent that
- 2 this is a matter for local educational agencies to determine.

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