

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 13, 2007

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 193**

---

---

**Introduced by Senator Scott**

February 7, 2007

---

---

An act to amend Sections 44392 and 44393 of the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 193, as amended, Scott. Teacher credentialing: paraprofessional teacher training program.

(1) The Wildman-Keeley-Solis Exemplary Teacher Training Act of 1997 establishes the California School Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program for the purpose of recruiting paraprofessionals to participate in a program designed to encourage them to enroll in teacher training programs and to provide instructional service as teachers in the public schools. The act requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in consultation with certain other educational entities, to select, pursuant to specified criteria, 24 or more school districts or county offices of education representing rural, urban, and suburban areas that apply to participate in the program. The act requires a school district or county office of education to require a person participating in the program to commit to fulfilling certain specified obligations relating to obtaining a teaching credential and employment as a teacher in the district.

This bill, in addition, would require a school district or county office of education to require a program participant to commit to obtaining a certificate of clearance from the commission prior to enrollment.

(2) The act requires a program participant to repay assistance received under the program if he or she fails to fulfill the specified obligations,

but prohibits requiring a participant who is laid off to repay the assistance *until the participant is offered reemployment and has an opportunity to fulfill his or her repayment obligations.*

~~This bill instead would allow a school district or county office of education, in its discretion, to require a participant who is laid off to repay the assistance. The would extend the time periods for the repayment of assistance would be extended by specified periods if a participant is unable to fulfill those obligations due to a serious illness, a pregnancy, or another natural cause, or if an interruption in employment caused by a natural disaster prevents a participant from completing one of the required years of service. School districts and county offices of education would be required to return funds collected as repayment of assistance to the commission on an annual basis. The Controller would be required to revert funds returned to the commission to the Proposition 98 Reversion Account on an annual basis.~~

(3) The act requires the commission to contract with an independent evaluator to conduct an evaluation on an annual basis to determine the success of paraprofessional recruitment programs, as specified.

This bill would instead require that the evaluation be conducted once every 5 years.

(4) The act expresses the intent of the Legislature that *in each fiscal year, funding for the California School Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program be allocated to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for grants to school districts as specified. The act limits grants to any school district districts to \$3,000 annually per program participant per year, and makes funding for the grants contingent upon an appropriation in the annual Budget Act.*

This bill would raise the limit on grants per paraprofessional *per year* to \$3,500.

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 44392 of the Education Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 44392. For the purposes of this article, unless the context
- 4 clearly requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the
- 5 following meanings:

1 (a) “Applicant” means a school district or county office of  
2 education applying for program funds under the California School  
3 Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program established pursuant  
4 to Section 44393.

5 (b) “Institutions of higher education” means the California  
6 Community Colleges, the California State University, the  
7 University of California, and private institutions of higher  
8 education that offer an accredited teacher training program.

9 (c) “Participant” means a school paraprofessional who elects  
10 to participate in the California School Paraprofessional Teacher  
11 Training Program.

12 (d) “Program” means the California School Paraprofessional  
13 Teacher Training Program established pursuant to Section 44393.

14 (e) “School paraprofessional” means the following job  
15 classifications: educational aide, instructional aide, special  
16 education aide, special education assistant, teacher associate,  
17 teacher assistant, teacher aide, pupil service aide, library aide, child  
18 development aide, child development assistant, and physical  
19 education aide.

20 (f) “Teacher training program” means any undergraduate or  
21 graduate program of instruction conducted by a campus of an  
22 institution of higher education that includes a developmentally  
23 sequenced career ladder to provide instruction, coursework, and  
24 clearly defined tasks for each level of the ladder, and that is  
25 designed to qualify students enrolled in the program for a teaching  
26 credential authorizing instruction in kindergarten and grades 1 to  
27 12, inclusive.

28 SEC. 2. Section 44393 of the Education Code is amended to  
29 read:

30 44393. (a) The California School Paraprofessional Teacher  
31 Training Program is hereby established for the purpose of recruiting  
32 school paraprofessionals to participate in a program designed to  
33 encourage them to enroll in teacher training programs and to  
34 provide instructional service as teachers in the public schools.

35 (b) The commission, in consultation with the Chancellor of the  
36 California Community Colleges, the Chancellor of the California  
37 State University, the President of the University of California, the  
38 chancellors of private institutions of higher education that offer  
39 accredited teacher training programs, and representatives of  
40 certificated and classified employee organizations, shall select 24

1 or more school districts or county offices of education representing  
2 rural, urban, and suburban areas that apply to participate in the  
3 program. The commission shall ensure that, at a minimum, a total  
4 of 600 school paraprofessionals are recruited from among the 24  
5 or more participating school districts or county offices of education.  
6 The criteria adopted by the commission for the selection of school  
7 districts or county offices of education to participate in the program  
8 shall include all of the following:

9 (1) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the capacity  
10 and willingness to accommodate the participation of school  
11 paraprofessionals in teacher training programs conducted at  
12 institutions of higher education.

13 (2) The extent to which the applicant's plan for the  
14 implementation of its recruitment program involves the active  
15 participation of one or more local campuses of the participating  
16 institutions of higher education in the development of coursework  
17 and teaching programs for participating school paraprofessionals.  
18 Each selected applicant shall be required to enter into a written  
19 articulation agreement with the participating campuses of the  
20 institutions of higher education.

21 (3) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment  
22 attempts to meet the demand for bilingual-crosscultural teachers.

23 (4) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment  
24 attempts to meet the demand for multiple subject credentialed  
25 teachers interested in teaching kindergarten or any of grades 1 to  
26 3, inclusive. For purposes of this paragraph, each paraprofessional  
27 selected to participate shall have completed at least two years of  
28 undergraduate college or university coursework and shall have  
29 demonstrated an interest in obtaining a multiple subject teaching  
30 credential for teaching kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 3,  
31 inclusive.

32 (5) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment  
33 attempts to meet the demand for special education teachers.

34 (6) The extent to which a developmentally sequenced series of  
35 job descriptions leads from an entry-level school paraprofessional  
36 position to an entry-level teaching position in that school district  
37 or county office of education.

38 (7) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment  
39 attempts to meet its own specific teacher needs.

1 (8) The extent to which the applicant’s plan for implementation  
2 of its recruitment program involves participation in a district  
3 internship program pursuant to Article 7.5 (commencing with  
4 Section 44325) and Section 44830.3 or a university internship  
5 program pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 44450)  
6 of Chapter 3.

7 (c) An applicant that is selected to participate pursuant to  
8 subdivision (b) shall provide information and assistance to each  
9 school paraprofessional it recruits under the program regarding  
10 admission to a teacher training program.

11 (d) (1) The applicant shall recruit and organize groups, or  
12 “cohorts,” of participants, of no more than 30, and no less than 10,  
13 in each cohort. Cohorts shall be organized to consist of participants  
14 having approximately equal academic experience and  
15 qualifications, as determined by the school district or county office  
16 of education. To the extent possible, the members of each cohort  
17 shall proceed through the same subject matter and credential  
18 programs. The members of each cohort shall enroll in the same  
19 college or university and shall be provided appropriate support  
20 and information throughout the course of their studies by the  
21 applicant.

22 (2) An applicant shall certify that it has received a commitment  
23 from each participant that he or she will accomplish all of the  
24 following:

25 (A) Prior to enrollment, obtain a certificate of clearance from  
26 the commission pursuant to Sections 44339 to 44341, inclusive,  
27 and related regulations adopted by the commission.

28 (B) Graduate from an institution of higher education under the  
29 program with a bachelor’s degree.

30 (C) Complete all of the requirements for and obtain a multiple  
31 subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching credential.

32 (D) Complete one school year of classroom instruction in the  
33 district or county office of education for each year that he or she  
34 receives assistance for books, fees, and tuition while attending an  
35 institution of higher education under the program.

36 (3) To the extent that a participant does not fulfill his or her  
37 obligations, as set forth in paragraph (2), the participant shall be  
38 required to repay the assistance. If a participant is laid off, ~~a school~~  
39 ~~district or county office of education may require the participant~~  
40 *the participant may not be required* to repay the assistance until

1 the participant is offered reemployment and has an opportunity to  
2 fulfill his or her obligations under this section.

3 (4) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (3), if a  
4 participant is unable to fulfill his or her obligations pursuant to  
5 paragraph (2) due to a serious illness, a pregnancy, or another  
6 natural cause, the time period for repayment of the assistance shall  
7 be extended by a maximum period of one year.

8 (5) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (3), if an  
9 interruption in employment caused by a natural disaster prevents  
10 a participant from completing one of the required years of service,  
11 the time period for repayment of the assistance shall be extended  
12 by a period equal to the period between the date the interruption  
13 of employment begins and the date employment resumes.

14 (6) Funds collected by a school district or county office of  
15 education as repayment of assistance pursuant to paragraph (3)  
16 shall be returned to the commission on an annual basis. The  
17 Controller shall revert funds returned to the commission pursuant  
18 to this paragraph to the Proposition 98 Reversion Account on an  
19 annual basis.

20 (e) The commission shall contract with an independent evaluator  
21 with a proven record of experience in assessing career-advancement  
22 programs or teacher training programs to conduct an evaluation  
23 to determine the success of the recruitment programs established  
24 pursuant to subdivision (b). The evaluation shall be conducted  
25 once every five years and shall include, but is not limited to, all  
26 of the following:

27 (1) The total cost per person participating in the program who  
28 successfully obtains a teaching credential, based upon all state,  
29 local, federal, and other sources of funding.

30 (2) The economic status of persons participating in the program.

31 (3) A description of financial and other resources made available  
32 to each recruitment program by participating school districts or  
33 county offices of education, institutions of higher education, and  
34 other participating organizations.

35 (4) The extent to which pupil performance on standardized  
36 achievement tests has improved in classes taught by teachers who  
37 have successfully completed the program, in comparison to classes  
38 taught by other teachers who have equivalent teaching experience.

1 (5) The extent to which pupil dropout rates and other measures  
2 of delinquency have improved in classes taught by teachers who  
3 have successfully completed the program.

4 (6) The extent to which teachers who have successfully  
5 completed the program remain in the communities in which they  
6 reside and in which they teach.

7 (7) The attrition rate of teachers who have successfully  
8 completed the program.

9 (f) Each selected school district or county office of education  
10 shall report to the commission regarding the progress of each cohort  
11 of school paraprofessionals, and other information regarding its  
12 recruitment program as the commission may direct.

13 (g) No later than January 1 of each year, the commission shall  
14 report to the Legislature regarding the status of the program,  
15 including, but not limited to, the number of school  
16 paraprofessionals recruited, the academic progress of the school  
17 paraprofessionals recruited, the number of school paraprofessionals  
18 recruited who are subsequently employed as teachers in the public  
19 schools, the degree to which the program meets the demand for  
20 bilingual and special education teachers as well as meeting teacher  
21 needs in shortage areas as determined by the applicant, the degree  
22 to which the program or similar programs can meet that demand  
23 if properly funded and executed, and other effects upon the  
24 operation of the public schools.

25 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature that each fiscal year, funding  
26 for the California School Paraprofessional Teacher Training  
27 Program be allocated to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
28 for grants to applicants pursuant to this section. A grant to an  
29 applicant shall not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars  
30 (\$3,500) per participant per year. Funding for grants to applicants  
31 pursuant to this subdivision shall be contingent upon an  
32 appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

O