

Assembly Bill No. 1853

Passed the Assembly August 21, 2012

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 13, 2012

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2012, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 44255 to the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1853, Bonilla. Teacher credentialing: recognition of study in transitional kindergarten.

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards and to determine the terms for the issuance and renewal of teaching credentials, certificates, and permits, as specified.

This bill would authorize the commission to convene a workgroup consisting of specified members to develop program standards for the issuance of a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten, as defined, for holders of a multiple subject teaching credential who will be teaching pupils enrolled in transitional kindergarten, as defined, and would authorize the commission to add a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten to the multiple subject teaching credential of a teacher who meets the established standards. The bill would authorize the commission to work with the Superintendent of Public Instruction to gather and post, on an appropriate Internet Web site, best practices from school districts and schools on curriculum development and professional development relating to implementing and sustaining transitional kindergarten programs. The bill also would provide that the holder of a multiple subject teaching credential who has received a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten is not authorized to teach English learners, except as specified, and that a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten is not considered a type of authorization, cannot be used as a condition of employment, does not replace subject matter competence requirements, and cannot be used in making employment decisions relating to reductions in employee positions.

The bill would require the commission to use private funds to support the development of the recognition of study in transitional kindergarten and would prohibit the use of General Fund moneys for this purpose. The bill would require the workgroup to be

convened only after the Department of Finance determines, and files a written statement with specified persons, that private funds have been deposited with the state, as specified.

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

SECTION 1. Section 44255 is added to the Education Code, to read:

44255. (a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Recognition of study in transitional kindergarten" is a statement added to a multiple subject teaching credential to indicate that the holder of a multiple subject teaching credential has completed a commission-approved program in transitional kindergarten teaching methods that can be applied to the academic instruction authorized by his or her credential. A recognition of study in a transitional kindergarten teacher preparation program may be offered as part of an initial teacher preparation program or as a separate program for teachers who possess a valid multiple subject teaching credential.

(2) "Transitional kindergarten" is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 48000.

(b) The commission may convene a workgroup to develop program standards for the issuance of a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten for holders of a multiple subject teaching credential who will be teaching pupils enrolled in transitional kindergarten pursuant to Section 48000. The workgroup shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) The Superintendent or his or her representative.

(2) Representatives from approved teacher preparation programs, including at least one representative from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities. To the extent practicable, the representatives described in this paragraph should have an academic interest or prior experience in preparing teachers to teach pupils in transitional kindergarten.

(3) A researcher from a higher education institution who has experience in early pupil learning.

(4) A representative from a school district, a county office of education, or a charter school that has implemented a program for transitional kindergarten.

(5) A transitional kindergarten teacher who has experience teaching pupils in kindergarten.

(6) A teacher who is currently teaching pupils in transitional kindergarten.

(7) A representative of other organizations deemed appropriate by the commission.

(8) A parent representative.

(c) The commission may add a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten to the multiple subject teaching credential of a teacher who meets the standards established pursuant to this section.

(d) It is the intent of the Legislature that a successful candidate for a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten be able to demonstrate appropriate knowledge, as determined by the commission, based on the recommendations of the workgroup convened pursuant to subdivision (b).

(e) With respect to a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten, the California State University and other teacher preparation institutions are encouraged to establish goals to increase the number of teachers participating in transitional kindergarten preparation programs.

(f) Beginning teacher support and assessment programs are encouraged to provide appropriate support, mentoring, and assistance to beginning teachers who teach pupils in transitional kindergarten.

(g) The commission may work with the Superintendent to gather and post, on an appropriate Internet Web site, best practices from school districts and schools on curriculum development and professional development relating to implementing and sustaining transitional kindergarten programs.

(h) The commission shall use private funds to support the development of the recognition of study in transitional kindergarten as described in this section. General Fund moneys shall not be used for this purpose.

(i) The holder of a multiple subject teaching credential who has received a recognition of study in transitional kindergarten pursuant to subdivision (c) is not authorized to teach English learners unless he or she holds an appropriate authorization or is employed on the basis of a local assignment option.

(j) A recognition of study in transitional kindergarten shall not be considered a type of authorization, shall not be used as a condition of employment, shall not replace a subject matter competence requirement, and shall not be used in making employment decisions pursuant to Section 44955.

(k) The workgroup described in subdivision (b) shall be convened only after the Department of Finance determines that private funds, in an amount sufficient to fully support the activities of the workgroup, have been deposited with the state. If the Department of Finance determines that sufficient funding has been secured to establish and support the activities of the workgroup, the Department of Finance shall file a written statement with the Secretary of the Senate, the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, and the Legislative Counsel memorializing that this determination has been made.

Approved _____, 2012

Governor