

Introduced by Senator AlquistFebruary 23, 2012

An act to add Section 44254.5 to the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1245, as introduced, Alquist. Teacher credentialing: subject matter certificate in mathematics or science.

Existing law prohibits the Commission on Teacher Credentialing from initially issuing a credential, permit, certificate, or renewal of an emergency credential to a person to serve in the public schools unless the person demonstrates proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills in the English language, except for persons exempted from this requirement.

Existing law sets forth the requirements for the issuance of a single subject teaching credential that authorizes the holder to provide instruction in mathematics or science.

Existing law, the Teacher Education Internship Act of 1967, authorizes school districts, in cooperation with an approved college or university, to establish teacher education internship programs. Existing law also authorizes school districts, in consultation with an approved program of pedagogical teacher preparation, to employ persons authorized by the commission to provide service as district interns and requires these school districts to develop and implement a professional development plan for district interns.

Existing law authorizes the commission to issue an eminence credential to a person who has achieved eminence in a field of endeavor taught or service practiced in the public schools. This credential authorizes teaching or the performance of services in the public schools

in the subject, subject area, or service, and at the level or levels, approved by the commission as designated on the credential.

This bill would authorize the governing board of a school district to request the commission to issue a 2-year subject matter certificate in mathematics or science to an applicant the governing board recommends to the commission if the governing board certifies it is experiencing an acute staffing need. The bill would require the commission to issue the certificate requested if the governing board verifies or submits documentation to verify the school district, among other things, has conducted a local recruitment for applicants of the certificate being requested, has developed a professional development plan for the applicant, and will provide, and the applicant will complete, at least 80 hours of preservice training before providing classroom instruction.

The bill would require the applicant to possess a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university, comply with the basic skills requirement unless exempt, attain a passing score on the California Subject Examinations for Teachers in mathematics or science or completion of an approved subject matter program in mathematics or science, and attain a passing score on an examination or complete program subject matter requirements that are aligned to the academic content standards in mathematics or science for grades 8 to 12, inclusive, or complete specified coursework.

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 44254.5 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:
3 44254.5. (a) The governing board of a school district may
4 request the commission to issue a two-year subject matter
5 certificate in mathematics or science to an applicant whom the
6 governing board recommends to the commission if the governing
7 board certifies the school district is experiencing an acute staffing
8 need.
9 (b) The commission shall issue the two-year subject matter
10 certificate in mathematics or science requested by the governing
11 board pursuant to subdivision (a) if the governing board verifies
12 or submits documentation to verify all of the following:

1 (1) The school district has conducted a local recruitment for
2 applicants of the certificate being requested.

3 (2) The school district has developed a professional development
4 plan for the applicant.

5 (3) The school district will provide, and the applicant will
6 complete, at least 80 hours of preservice training before providing
7 classroom instruction.

8 (4) The applicant can document that he or she has a minimum
9 of three years of professional experience associated with
10 mathematics or science.

11 (5) The applicant meets the following requirements:

12 (A) Possession of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a
13 regionally accredited college or university.

14 (B) Compliance with the basic skills requirement as described
15 in Section 44252, unless exempt by statutes or regulations.

16 (C) A passing score on the California Subject Examinations for
17 Teachers in mathematics or science or completion of an approved
18 subject matter program in mathematics or science.

19 (D) A passing score on an examination or completion of program
20 subject matter requirements that are aligned to the academic content
21 standards in mathematics or science for grades 8 to 12, inclusive,
22 or completion of nine upper division semester units or equivalent
23 quarter units in mathematics or science or 18 semester units or
24 equivalent quarter units in mathematics or science. The coursework
25 required pursuant to this subparagraph shall be nonremedial
26 coursework taken at a regionally accredited college or university
27 with a grade of C or higher, Pass, or Credit. “Nonremedial
28 coursework” for purposes of this section means coursework that
29 is applicable toward a bachelor’s degree or a higher degree at a
30 regionally accredited college or university.