

Assembly Bill No. 1282

CHAPTER 704

An act to amend Section 44252.5 of, and to add Section 44252.9 to, the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

[Approved by Governor October 6, 1999. Filed
with Secretary of State October 10, 1999.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1282, Jackson. Teacher credentialing.

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards and procedures for the initial issuance and renewal of teacher credentials. Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt an appropriate state test to measure proficiency in certain basic skills, and requires each applicant to an approved credential program unless otherwise exempted, to take the state basic skills proficiency test. Existing law requires the commission to establish the amount of the fee charged to individuals being tested not to exceed \$30 in the 1982–83 fiscal year, \$35 in the 1983–84 fiscal year, and \$40 in subsequent fiscal years.

This bill would provide that subsequent to January 1, 2002, the fee shall be set by the commission to recover the costs of examination administration and development, unless the costs are recovered by appropriations from another source of funds. The bill would require the commission to make improvements to increase access to the state basic skills proficiency test and to improve exam-related services provided to candidates for teaching credentials. This bill would require the commission to adopt these improvements in consultation with the Department of Finance and to report all improvements to the Legislature.

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

SECTION 1. Section 44252.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

44252.5. (a) The commission shall administer the state basic skills proficiency test pursuant to Sections 44227, 44252, and 44830 in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the commission. The adopted rules and regulations shall be promulgated by the commission before January 1, 1983, and shall be exempt from the requirements of Section 44232. A fee shall be charged to individuals being tested to cover the costs of the test, including the costs of developing, administering, and grading the test. The commission shall establish the amount of this fee. However, the fee shall not

exceed thirty dollars (\$30) in the 1982–83 fiscal year, thirty-five dollars (\$35) in the 1983–84 fiscal year, and forty dollars (\$40) for the 1984–85 fiscal year to January 1, 2002. Subsequent to January 1, 2002, the amount of the fee shall be established by the commission to recover the cost of examination administration and development pursuant to Section 44235.3.

(b) The commission may enter into agreements with other states permitting the use of the state basic skills proficiency test as a requirement for the issuance of credentials or for teacher preparation program admission in those other states, provided that the use would advance the interests of the State of California and that the other states reimburse the Teacher Credentials Fund for a proportionate share of costs of the development and administration of the test.

(c) Any individual who passes the state basic skills proficiency test, as adopted by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall be considered proficient in the skills of reading, writing, and mathematics, and shall not be required to be retested by this test for purposes of meeting the proficiency requirements of Sections 44227, 44252, and 44830.

(d) Any individual who passes one or more components of the state basic skills proficiency test in the subjects of basic reading, writing, or mathematics, shall be deemed to have demonstrated his or her proficiency in these subject areas and shall not be required to be retested in these subjects during subsequent test administrations.

SEC. 2. Section 44252.9 is added to the Education Code, to read:

44252.9. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the effective education of pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, depends substantially on the academic skills, content competence, and pedagogical preparation of classroom teachers. It is essential that the ongoing administration of the state basic skills proficiency exam for teachers be carried out at all times by a competent contractor who adheres to high standards using sound, effective, and defensible assessment procedures. The administration of this exam is jeopardized by the increasing costs of the exam and statutory restrictions that remain in effect. To preserve and strengthen the screening of teacher candidates in relation to their basic academic skills, the Legislature intends to maintain the state examination that is administered by the commission pursuant to Section 44252.5, and to support needed improvements in exam-related services to teaching credential candidates.

(b) The commission shall make improvements to increase access to the state basic skills proficiency test, and shall improve exam-related services provided to candidates for teaching credentials, which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Administering the test more frequently.
- (2) Increasing the number of testing locations.



(3) Making the exam available year-round by appointment at examination centers that are highly secure and professionally supervised.

(c) The commission shall adopt these improvements in consultation with the Department of Finance and shall report all improvements to the Legislature.

