

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 23, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 751

Introduced by Senator Romero
(Coauthor: Senator Wyland)

February 27, 2009

An act to amend Section 44275.4 of, and to add Article 14 (commencing with Section 44401) to Chapter 2 of Part 25 of Division 3 of Title 2 of, the Education Code, relating to teachers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 751, as amended, Romero. Teacher credentials.

(1) Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue a California teaching credential, including a 5-year preliminary multiple subject teaching credential, a 5-year preliminary single subject credential, or a 5-year preliminary education specialist credential, to a teacher prepared in a country other than the United States who meets specified requirements.

This bill would authorize the commission to issue a multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching credential to a teacher prepared in a country other than the United States who has earned a valid corresponding elementary, secondary, or special education teaching credential in another state and who meets specified requirements. The bill would also make various nonsubstantive conforming changes.

(2) Existing law requires the commission to select, administer, and interpret subject matter examinations, and provides that the adequacy of subject matter preparation and the basis for assignment of certified personnel is determined by the successful passage of a subject matter examination, except as specifically waived pursuant to specified provisions.

This bill would require a school district, county office of education, or charter school that provides intensive examination preparation courses for the purposes of preparing credentialholders to demonstrate subject matter knowledge ~~in mathematics or the sciences~~ to meet specified requirements. The bill would authorize those local educational entities to contract with other specified entities for services to provide intensive examination preparation courses to assist teacher participants to prepare for taking commission-approved subject matter examinations.

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. (a) The Legislature finds and declares as follows:
2 (1) High-quality mathematics and science education for all
3 pupils is essential to ensure that California remains a national and
4 world leader in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
5 (2) California's chronic shortage of credentialed mathematics
6 and science teachers prevents too many pupils from successfully
7 acquiring math and science skills necessary for postsecondary
8 studies and employment.
9 (3) In spite of gains in pupil achievement on the California
10 Standards Test in 2008, fewer than one-half of all pupils scored
11 at least proficient in mathematics, with far lower achievement
12 scores for Latino and African American pupils.
13 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to increase the number of
14 credentialed mathematics and science teachers in California
15 classrooms to plant the seeds for increasing pupil achievement in
16 these critical content areas, and enhance the state's ability to
17 maintain economic competitiveness in the science, technology,
18 engineering, and mathematics fields.
19 SEC. 2. Section 44275.4 of the Education Code is amended to
20 read:
21 44275.4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law:
22 (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that both of the following
23 occur:
24 (1) That this section provide flexibility to enable school districts
25 to recruit credentialed elementary, secondary, and special education
26 teachers prepared in countries other than the United States to
27 relocate temporarily or permanently to this state.

1 (2) That any and all teachers prepared in countries other than
2 the United States who are granted a California teaching credential
3 pursuant to this section fully meet the requirements of this state.

4 (b) Coursework, programs, or degrees completed at an institution
5 of higher education outside of the United States are acceptable
6 toward certification when the Commission on Teacher
7 Credentialing or an evaluating agency approved by the commission
8 has determined that the institution's coursework, programs, or
9 degrees are equivalent to those offered by a regionally accredited
10 institution in the United States. The commission reserves the right
11 to accept or reject an approved evaluating agency's determination.
12 Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the
13 commission shall issue a five-year preliminary multiple subject
14 teaching credential authorizing instruction in a self-contained
15 classroom, a five-year preliminary single subject teaching
16 credential authorizing instruction in a departmentalized classroom,
17 or a five-year preliminary education specialist credential
18 authorizing instruction of special education pupils to a teacher
19 prepared in a country other than the United States who meets all
20 of the following requirements:

21 (1) The teacher holds or is eligible for a credential from another
22 country that required a baccalaureate or higher degree determined
23 to be equivalent to those offered by a regionally accredited
24 institution in the United States and completion of a professional
25 preparation program approved by the appropriate agency in the
26 country where the program was completed that requires the teacher
27 to meet requirements equivalent to the multiple or single subject
28 teaching credential requirements in Section 44259 or the special
29 education credential requirements described in Section 44265. The
30 commission shall determine the area of concentration for the
31 California education specialist credential based on the special
32 education program completed out of country.

33 (2) The teacher successfully completes a criminal background
34 check conducted pursuant to Sections 44339, 44340, and 44341
35 for credentialing purposes.

36 (c) A teacher prepared in a country other than the United States
37 who has been issued by the commission a five-year preliminary
38 multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching
39 credential shall pass the state basic skills proficiency test,
40 administered by the commission pursuant to Section 44252, within

1 one year of the issuance date of the credential in order to be eligible
2 to continue teaching pursuant to this section.

3 (d) The commission shall issue a clear multiple subject, single
4 subject, or education specialist teaching credential to a teacher
5 prepared in a country other than the United States who has met
6 the requirements in subdivisions (b) and (c) and who meets the
7 following requirements:

8 (1) Demonstration of subject matter competence pursuant to
9 paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 44259.

10 (2) Completion of a course, or for multiple subject and education
11 specialist credentials, a course or an examination, on the various
12 methods of teaching reading pursuant to paragraph (4) of
13 subdivision (b) of Section 44259. Completion of coursework in
14 another state or country determined by the commission to be
15 comparable and equivalent shall meet this requirement.

16 (3) Completion of a course or examination on the provisions
17 and principles of the United States Constitution pursuant to
18 paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 44259. Completion of
19 coursework in another state or country determined by the
20 commission to be comparable and equivalent shall meet this
21 requirement.

22 (4) Completion of the study of health education pursuant to
23 subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section
24 44259. Completion of coursework in another state or country
25 determined by the commission to be comparable and equivalent
26 shall meet this requirement.

27 (5) With the exception of the education specialist credential,
28 completion of study and field experience in methods of delivering
29 appropriate educational services to pupils with exceptional needs
30 in regular education programs. Completion of coursework in
31 another state or country determined by the commission to be
32 comparable and equivalent shall meet this requirement.

33 (6) Completion of the study of computer-based technology
34 through demonstration by course or examination of basic
35 competence in the use of computers in the classroom, and study
36 of advanced computer-based technology including the uses of
37 technology in educational settings pursuant to paragraph (3) of
38 subdivision (c) of Section 44259. Completion of coursework in
39 another state or country determined by the commission as
40 comparable and equivalent shall meet this requirement.

1 (7) Completion of a beginning teacher induction program
2 pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 44259.

3 (8) A teacher holding a specialist credential pursuant to this
4 section shall complete the requirements for nonspecial education
5 pedagogy and a supervised field experience program in general
6 education pursuant to Section 44265.

7 (9) A teacher holding a specialist credential pursuant to this
8 section shall complete a program for the Professional Level II
9 credential accredited by the commission.

10 (e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (b), (c), and (d), the
11 commission shall issue a multiple subject, single subject, or
12 education specialist teaching credential to a teacher prepared in a
13 country other than the United States who has earned a valid
14 corresponding elementary, secondary, or special education teaching
15 credential in another state and who meets the requirements set
16 forth in Section 44274.2. A corresponding elementary, secondary,
17 or special education teaching credential earned in another state
18 shall be deemed to satisfy the teacher preparation program
19 requirements specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of
20 Section 44274.2.

21 SEC. 3. Article 14 (commencing with Section 44401) is added
22 to Chapter 2 of Part 25 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Education
23 Code, to read:

24
25 Article 14. Preparation Courses for Subject Matter Knowledge
26 ~~in Mathematics and the Sciences~~
27

28 44401. (a) A school district, county office of education, or
29 charter school that provides intensive examination preparation
30 courses for the purpose of preparing multiple or single subject
31 credentialholders or education specialist credentialholders to
32 demonstrate subject matter knowledge ~~in mathematics or the~~
33 ~~sciences~~ by a subject matter examination approved by the
34 Commission on Teacher Credentialing shall do all of the following:

35 (1) Ensure that the program meets the domains for subject matter
36 understanding and skill adopted by the commission in the content
37 area.

38 (2) Provide guidance and information to each teacher participant
39 on the requirements for adding a new credential type.

- 1 (3) Monitor the progress of each teacher participant toward
- 2 meeting credential requirements ~~for teaching mathematics and~~
- 3 ~~science~~, and report annually to its governing board.
- 4 (b) A school district, county office of education, or charter
- 5 school may contract with other entities, including the California
- 6 subject matter projects administered by the University of
- 7 California, for services to provide intensive examination
- 8 preparation courses to assist teacher participants to prepare for
- 9 taking commission-approved subject matter examinations.