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Information /Action

Legislative Committee of the Whole

Analyses of Bills of Interest to the Commission

Executive Summary: Staff will present analyses of educator preparation or licensing bills introduced by Legislators. The analyses will summarize current law, describe the bills' provisions, estimate its costs and recommend amendments if applicable.

Recommended Action: The Commission may take a position on the measures. Positions for the Commission to consider are: Sponsor, Support, Support if Amended, Seek Amendments, Watch, Oppose Unless Amended, Oppose, or No Position.

Presenter: Anne Padilla, Consultant, Office of Governmental Relations

Strategic Plan Goal: 4

Continue effective and appropriate involvement of the Commission with policymaker's on key education issue.

- ◆ Influence legislation regarding the preparation and certification of professional educators.

ANALYSES OF BILLS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Bill Number:	Senate Bill 498
Author:	Senator Cox
Sponsor:	California State Commanders Veterans Council
Subject of Bill:	California Troops to Teachers Program
Date Introduced:	February 18, 2005
Status in Leg. Process:	Senate Education Committee Hearing Scheduled for April 13, 2005
Possible Actions:	Should the Commission wish to take a position on this bill, the positions for the Commission to consider are: Sponsor, Support, Support if Amended, Seek Amendments, Watch, Oppose Unless Amended, Oppose, or No Position
Date of Analysis:	March 16, 2005
Analyst:	Marilyn Errett

Summary of Current Law

Under current federal law, the Troops to Teachers Program provides financial assistance to eligible military personnel to transition to a career in teaching. Grants may be provided to eligible individuals for up to \$5,000 to pay for teacher certification costs or for up to \$10,000 to individuals who teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families. The federal Troops to Teachers Program was first established in 1994.

Summary of Current Activity by the Commission

California teacher candidates in the federal Troops to Teachers Program participate in teacher preparation programs accredited by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission). While many participants enter intern programs and begin teaching while completing the program, others take courses before retiring from military service and complete student teaching upon retirement. The federal Troops to Teachers recruitment and grant administration is currently funded through the Sacramento County Office of Education which contracts with the Project Pipeline Teacher Recruitment and Intern Program for administration of the program. The program currently serves thirty to fifty participants per year. Upon completion of the program, these individuals become fully certified to teach in California's public schools.

The Commission has a long history with the Troops to Teachers Program. Beginning in 1994, California was one of 17 states to receive funding to establish recruitment and advisement centers for veterans of the armed services. Also in 1994, then Governor Pete Wilson established the California Aerospace and Defense Worker Corps to add teacher recruitment and advising services for aerospace and defense corps workers who had been laid off. By 1995 the program included over 420 participants who were teaching in the public schools and had either completed or were nearing completion of a teacher credentialing program.

Federal funds for the program ceased on October 1, 1999. The Sacramento County Office of Education agreed to incorporate the program into its existing teacher recruitment efforts. In 2002, Congress and President Bush reauthorized funds to offer \$5,000 stipends to qualified participants in the program.

Analysis of Bill Provisions

SB 498 would establish the California Troops to Teachers Program. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing would be required to establish and maintain the program, which would be funded through the annual Budget Act. The Program would provide grants to qualified members of the Armed Forces accepted into the program to teach in the public school system. SB 498 stipulates that priority in participant selection should be given to members of the Armed Forces who have educational or military experience in science, mathematics, special education, or vocational or technical subjects and who agree to teach in those areas. Grants would be contingent upon possession of a valid California credential and upon an agreement to serve in the public schools of California for a minimum of three years.

An individual who meets the requirements above would be given a grant of \$10,000 in addition to the federal stipend of \$5,000. Participants who violate the teaching service agreement would be required to reimburse the Commission for the portion of the service not completed. Exceptions to the reimbursement requirement, such as permanent disability, are outlined in the measure.

Analysis of Fiscal Impact of Bill

While SB 498 clearly states that the grant funding would be appropriated in the Annual Budget Act, it does not stipulate a percentage or flat rate for the administration of the program. Administration of this program would require the services of one full-time consultant level staff member and one full-time clerical support person. Tracking the public school service debt and arranging for payment from individuals who do not meet their obligation would require an additional consultant. Personnel costs would be approximately \$250,000 annually.

Employment tracking and grant repayment might be better placed with the California Student Aid Commission which has a system for this function in place as a part of their student loan program.

If funding for administrative costs are not allocated, the Commission could contract with an outside agency to administer the program. Non-state agencies can support staff costs using a percentage of the grant program funds. Contract management would be a minor/absorbable cost to the Commission.

Organizational Positions on the Bill

Sponsor

California State Commanders Veterans Council

Support

Federal Troops to Teachers Program

Oppose

None known at this time

Bill Analysis
California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Bill Number:	Senate Bill 845
Author:	Senator Jack Scott
Sponsor:	Office of the Governor
Subject of Bill:	Vocational and Adult Education Credentials
Date Introduced:	February 22, 2005
Status in Leg. Process:	Senate Education Committee
Possible Actions:	Should the Commission wish to take a position on this bill, the positions for the Commission to consider are: Sponsor, Support, Support if Amended, Seek Amendments, Watch, Oppose Unless Amended, Oppose or No Position
Date of Analysis:	March 15, 2005
Analyst:	Anne L. Padilla

Summary of Current Law

Vocational Education Credential

Education Code Section 44260 outlines the minimum requirements for a designated subjects preliminary vocational education teaching credential as all of the following:

- Five years (or the equivalent) of adequate, successful and recent experience in the subject to be taught or a combination of experience and education in the subject to be taught;
- A high school diploma or passage of a high school equivalency exam;
- Completion of two semester units or passage of an exam on the United States Constitution;
- Passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST).¹
- At the discretion of the Commission, passage of an exam in the subject to be taught.

¹ It should be noted that vocational education credential candidates are exempt from this requirement under another section of the Education Code, Section 44252(d).

Education Code Section 44260.1 outlines the minimum requirements for renewal of the preliminary designated subjects credential. These requirements are: a valid preliminary vocational education credential, two years (or the equivalent) of successful vocational education teaching, a program of personalized preparation approved by the Commission and health education, as specified.

Adult Education Credential

Education Code Section 44260.2 outlines the minimum requirements for a designated subjects preliminary adult education teaching credential as all of the following:

- Five years (or the equivalent) of appropriate experience or education in the subject to be taught;
- A high school diploma or passage of a high school equivalency exam; California Code of Regulations, Title 5 Section 80036.2 requires adult education teachers of academic subject to hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
- Completion of two semester units or passage of an exam on the United States Constitution;
- Passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST).²

Education Code Section 44260.3 outlines the minimum requirements for renewal of the preliminary designated subjects preliminary adult education teaching credential. These requirements are: a valid preliminary adult education credential, two years (or the equivalent) of successful adult education teaching, a program of personalized preparation approved by the Commission, and health education, as specified.

Summary of Current Activity by the Commission

The Commission currently offers 176 designated subjects vocational education teaching credentials in subjects ranging from accounting to welding. In 2003-04, the Commission awarded 3,221 vocational education teaching credentials.

The Commission currently offers 76 designated subjects adult education teaching credentials in subjects ranging from Adaptive Physical Education to Elementary and Secondary Basic Skills. In 2003-04, the Commission awarded 2,621 adult education teaching credentials.

Analysis of Bill Provisions

SB 845 would revise the minimum requirements for the designated subjects vocational and adult education teaching credentials by:

- clarifying the combination of education and experience required for earning the credentials;
- eliminating the subject matter exam that may be required by the Commission in the subject being taught;

² It should be noted that adult education credential candidates are exempt from this requirement under another section of the Education Code, Section 44252(a)(2), unless they will be teaching an academic subject.

- eliminating the U.S. Constitution study requirements, as specified;
- eliminating the health study requirements, as specified.

It is the author's hope that by revising the K-12 vocational credential requirements, high schools will attract quality teachers familiar with current business needs. He wants to expand students' educational opportunities by making available to them strong vocational programs.

Analysis of Fiscal Impact of Bill

Minor, absorbable cost to the Commission.

Organizational Positions on the Bill

None known at this time.

Bill Analysis

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Bill Number: Senate Bill 860

Author: Senator Bowen

Sponsor: Senator Bowen

Subject of Bill: State Agencies: Credit Card Fees

Date Introduced: February 22, 2005

Status in Leg. Process: Senate Judiciary Committee

Possible Actions: Should the Commission wish to take a position on this bill, the positions for the Commission to consider are: Sponsor, Support, Support if Amended, Seek Amendments, Watch, Oppose Unless Amended, Oppose, or No Position

Date of Analysis: March 15, 2005

Analyst: Marilyn Errett

Summary of Current Law

Under current law, retailers are prohibited from adding a surcharge to credit card transactions. Current law authorizes state agencies to recoup fees charged to the agency for the use of credit card transactions. The amount of this fee may not exceed the costs incurred by the agency in providing for credit card payment. (Government Code Section 6160 et seq.)

Summary of Current Activity by the Commission

As a function of the Commission's on-line credential renewal process, applicants pay the renewal fee by credit card. The Commission is charged \$2.00 per credit card transaction by the credit card vendor. To cover this fee, the Commission charges each online applicant \$2.00 in addition to the current \$55.00 application fee. The online renewal process provides significant convenience for applicants including a quick turn-around time and a printable receipt verifying the application. Online renewal, however, requires staff time and costs to print, check, and mail each document.

Analysis of Bill Provisions

SB 860 would prohibit state agencies or agents for a state agency from imposing a special processing fee for credit card or debit card payments if such a fee is not also charged to individuals who pay by cash or check.

Analysis of Fiscal Impact of Bill

In Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget, the Commission is asked to reach a goal of 80,000 online renewals. If the Commission reaches this goal in the coming year (which is likely) the credit card transaction fees paid by the Commission to the credit card processing vendor would be \$160,000. If the fee is not covered by the current \$2.00 processing fee paid by each online renewal applicant, the Commission will accrue a \$160,000 debt annually. There are currently no resources in the Commission's budget to absorb this debt, nor is there adequate workload savings as a result of the online process to counter these costs.

Organizational Positions on the Bill

None known at this time.