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Information

Legislative Committee

Other Legislative and Policy Items

Executive Summary: Staff will present an update on the activities of the Legislature and provide information about bills that do not directly affect Commission operation or policy, but may be of interest.

Recommended Action: For information only.

Presenter: Anne Padilla, Consultant, Office of Governmental Relations

Strategic Plan Goal: 4

Continue effective and appropriate involvement of the Commission with policymakers on key education issues.

- ♦ Influence legislation regarding the preparation and certification of professional educators

Other Legislative and Policy Items

SB 112 (Scott) State basic skills proficiency examination

Currently, local education agencies are prohibited from initially hiring a teacher unless that teacher has passed the state basic skills proficiency exam or the teacher meets any one of the following exceptions:

1. The teacher has been employed in a position requiring certification in a school district within 39 months prior to employment within the district;
2. The teacher is a retired teacher who has taught 15 years or more in a California public school, as specified;
3. The teacher has not been employed in a position requiring certification in any school district within 39 months prior to employment but has passed a locally administered basic skills exam and will take the state basic skills exam within one year; or
4. The teacher is employed for purposes of the class size reduction program and has been employed within 39 months prior to employment with the district or if the teacher has not been employed in a position requiring certification in any school district within 39 months prior to employment for purposes of the class-size reduction program and is willing to take the state basic skills exam within the next year.

SB 112 would delete the exemptions above and instead exempt a teacher who met any one of the following criteria:

1. Passed the state basic skills proficiency examination at least once;
2. Received a passing score on the Graduate Record Examination General Test, the Scholastic Aptitude Test Reasoning Test or the ACT Plus Writing test; or
3. Possessed a credential before the enactment of the statute (1983) that made the test a requirement.

The bill was also recently amended to clarify that a teacher with five years of experience, who returns to serve in a certificated position, does not meet the definition of a beginning teacher for purposes of BTSA participation.

SB 405 (Steinberg) Opportunities for pupils

SB 405 would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to close the opportunity gap for the pupils of California, in part, by enabling pupils to have the opportunity to complete all the courses required for admission to the California State University or the

University of California at their own schools; ensuring that the career technical education coursework is sufficiently rigorous to allow meaningful entry into the workforce; increasing the opportunities for pupils to participate in comprehensive, multiyear programs that integrate college preparatory academics and technical study; and ensuring that schools have the capacity to provide sufficient counseling for pupils and sufficient numbers of teachers prepared to teach the subjects to which they are assigned.