



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: December 6, 2007	NUMBER: 07-18
TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing	FROM: Dale A. Janssen Executive Director Commission on Teacher Credentialing
SUBJECT: Changes to the Basic Skills Requirement	

Summary:

Two bills have recently been signed by the Governor that affect the Basic Skills Requirement (BSR). Senate Bill (SB) 112 (Chap. 191, Stats. 2007) amends Education Code (EC) §44830 pertaining to the BSR for teachers who have not been employed in a position requiring certification within 39 months. SB 280 (Chap.145, Stats. 2007) amends EC 44274.2 pertaining to the BSR for individuals applying for teaching certification based on training in another state or U.S. territory.

This correspondence explains the provisions of both SB 112 and SB 280 regarding changes to the BSR.

Key Provisions:

Senate Bill 112

SB 112 exempts an individual from passing the California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST) for employment purposes if an individual has met one of the options for meeting the BSR or holds a credential prior to CBEST being established as a requirement on February 1, 1983. Questions concerning this section should be addressed to the local employing agency.

Senate Bill 280

SB 280 allows all teachers prepared in another state or U.S. territory, regardless of their employment status, to apply for the preliminary credential prior to meeting the BSR. Individuals issued an initial teaching credential prior to satisfying the BSR must meet the requirement within one year of their credential issue date. Questions concerning this section may be addressed to the contact information listed below.

Important Dates:

Both SB 112 and SB 280 will be effective January 1, 2008.

Background:

Existing law prohibits the governing board of a school district from employing a certificated person unless that person has demonstrated basic skills proficiency or was exempted from the requirement. SB 112 allows certificated persons who were not employed within 39 months to seek employment. This provision strictly affects the employment of teachers and does not change the validity or authorization of the teacher's certification.

SB 1209 (Chap.517, Stats. 2006), effective January 1, 2007, did not include provisions allowing out-of-state prepared teachers to apply for initial certification without meeting the BSR unless the individual was employed in California. SB 280 allows out-of-state prepared individuals one year to meet the BSR if they have met all of the other requirements for a credential. This one-year period to meet the BSR is no longer limited to out-of-state prepared teachers who have established employment in California prior to submission of an application for certification.

Source:

EC § 44830 and EC § 44274.2

References:

Basic Skills Requirement leaflet: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl667.pdf>

Contact Information:

Contact the Commission's Information Services Unit by telephone at 888-921-2682, Monday through Friday from 1:00 pm to 4:45 pm or by email at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.