

**CALIFORNIA
COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

**February 5-6, 2003
In-Folder Item**

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: LEG-2

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

**TITLE: ANALYSES OF BILLS OF INTEREST TO THE
COMMISSION**

XX Action

XX Information

Strategic Plan Goal(s):

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

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Bill Analysis

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Bill Number:	Senate Bill 81
Author:	Senator Alpert
Sponsor:	California Association of Suburban School Districts
Subject of Bill:	Educational Studies Major
Date Introduced:	January 23, 2002
Status in Leg. Process:	Introduced
Current CCTC Position:	None
Recommended Position:	Watch
Date of Analysis:	February 3, 2003
Analyst:	Anne L. Padilla

Summary of Current Law

Education Code Section 44259 establishes the minimum requirements for preliminary multiple or single subject teaching credentials. These requirements include a Baccalaureate degree or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of postsecondary education, and except for out-of-state candidates specified in Section 44227, prohibits degrees in professional education. This same code section directs the Commission to offer undergraduate minors in education and special education to students who intend to become teachers.

Education Code Section 44259.1 describes integrated programs of subject matter and professional preparation (“blended programs”) that enable candidates for teaching credentials to engage in professional preparation concurrent with subject matter preparation, while completing baccalaureate degrees at regionally accredited postsecondary institutions. These integrated programs are based on intensive collaboration among subject matter departments and education units within postsecondary institutions and local public elementary and secondary school districts and provide candidates opportunities with early field work experience in public elementary and secondary schools.

Summary of Current Activity by the Commission

In 1998 the Commission sponsored legislation, SB 2042 (Alpert/Mazzoni), which among its provisions, established statutory authorization for integrated (“blended”) programs of subject matter preparation and professional preparation. The

Commission has approved more than 25 blended programs statewide that integrate subject matter, pedagogy and early field experiences. These programs are sponsored by both public and private four-year universities.

The Commission has used both state and federal grant funds to encourage the establishment of blended programs. The Commission's 1998-99 budget included \$350,000 to provide grants to public colleges and universities seeking accelerated approval to develop Blended Programs of Undergraduate Teacher Preparation. The Commission has also made available to public and private higher education institutions resources from California's Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement State Grant to expand blended programs.

Prior Legislation

Last year, Senator Alpert authored SB 1646 which would have required each campus of the California State University (CSU) and urged each campus of the University of California (UC) to establish a baccalaureate degree in elementary education, for the purpose of allowing candidates for multiple subject teaching credentials to study their professional preparation concurrently with their subject matter preparation. SB 1646 mirrored many of the blended program elements contained in Education Code Section 44259.1; however, the measure included provisions that were inconsistent with federal financial aid statutes.

Under current federal law, if an institution offers both undergraduate and graduate programs in teacher preparation, only the undergraduate students would be eligible for Pell grants. The author and sponsor proposed to seek a federal waiver from this requirement so that all students in teacher preparation programs, regardless of their standing, would be eligible for Pell grants.

The Commission took a "watch" position on this legislation. SB 1646 died on the Senate Inactive File.

Analysis of the Bill Provisions

SB 81 would amend Education Code Section 44259.1 authorizing integrated ("blended") programs by:

1. Specifying that the baccalaureate degree conferred upon completion of these programs be a degree in "educational studies"; and
2. Adding community college districts to the list of institutions/entities that collaborate in the development and implementation of the major.

Fiscal Analysis

Costs to the Commission: Unknown costs to the Commission to review new programs requiring Commission approval.

Analysis of Relevant Legislative Policies by the Commission

The following Legislative policy applies to this measure:

- 1. The Commission supports legislation which proposes to maintain or establish high standards for the preparation of public school teachers and other educators in California, and opposes legislation that would lower standards for teachers and other educators.**

Organizational Positions on the Bill

California Association of Suburban School Districts (Sponsor)

Staff Comments

This measure, like SB 1646 of last session, continues to conflict with federal financial aid requirements. Additionally, this measure may also conflict with new federal statutes under the No Child Left Behind Act which sought (among other provisions) to eliminate education majors.

Reasons for Suggested Position

The purpose of this measure is to continue discussions between the author and the higher education segments. While these discussions are underway, staff suggests a “watch” position.

Bill Analysis

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Bill Number:	Senate Bill 84
Author:	Senator Jack Scott
Subject of Bill:	California Pre-Internship Teaching Program
Date Introduced:	January 23, 2003
Status in Leg. Process	Introduced
Current CTC Position:	None
Recommended Position:	Sponsor
Date of Analysis:	February 3, 2003
Analyst:	Anne L. Padilla

Summary of Current Law

Current law authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue a preintern teaching certificate to individuals meeting specified criteria. Existing law also requires the Commission to submit an interim report regarding the Pre-Internship Teaching Program to the Legislature and the Legislative Analyst no later than October 1, 2000 and a final report no later than October 1, 2002.

Summary of Current Activity by the Commission

In September 2000, the Commission submitted the to the Legislature and the Legislative Analyst the interim report on the Pre-Internship Teaching Program. Last fall, the Commission transmitted the final report on the Pre-Internship Teaching Program, thus complying with the reporting requirements of this statute.

At the January Commission meeting, the Commission authorized staff to pursue "place holder" legislation in the event that statutory changes were needed to implement new credentialing requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to conform state law to the new federal law.

Analysis of the Bill Provisions

SB 84 would repeal Education Code Section 44306 calling for the Commission to submit an interim report regarding the Pre-Internship Teaching Program to the Legislature and the Legislative Analyst no later than October 1, 2000 and a final report no later than October 1, 2002.

As the Commission has already fulfilled this requirement, this code section is no longer necessary. SB 84 will serve as the Commission's vehicle to make any necessary changes to bring state credentialing law into conformance with the new federal law.

Analysis of Fiscal Impact of the Bill

There are no fiscal implications of this bill on the Commission.

Analysis of Relevant Legislative Policies by the Commission

1. **The Commission supports legislation, which proposes to maintain or establish high standards for the preparation of public school teachers and other educators in California, and opposes legislation that would lower standards for teachers and other educators.**
3. **The Commission supports legislation, which reaffirms that teachers and other educators have appropriate qualifications and experience for their positions, as evidenced by holding appropriate credentials, and opposes legislation, which would allow unprepared persons to serve in the public schools.**

Organization Positions on the Bill

None known at this time.

Recommended Position

Since legislation may be necessary to amend provisions of the Education Code under the Commission's jurisdiction, staff recommends that the Commission take a "sponsor" position on SB 84.

