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Information

Legislative Committee

Status of Legislation

Executive Summary: Staff will present the status of those legislative measures of interest to the Commission and address questions regarding any other legislation identified by Commissioners.

Recommended Action: For information only

Presenter: Sasha Horwitz, Government Relations & Public Affairs Manager,
Administrative Services Division

Strategic Plan Goal

III. Communication and Engagement

- e) Advise the Governor, Legislature, and other policy makers regarding issues affecting the quality, preparation, certification, and discipline of the education workforce.

Status of Education Budget Trailer Bills

This section provides an update on the status of the Education Budget Trailer bill, which contained new statutory flexibilities for the Commission and educator candidates in response to the COVID-19 situation.

On June 29, Governor Newsom signed the 2020-21 state budget and accompanying trailer bills providing the policy direction needed to implement the budget into law. The [Education Finance: Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill \(SB 98\)](#), added three new sections to Education Code to mitigate certain challenges facing candidates in meeting credential requirements due to testing center closures, school site closures and external paperwork processing delays.

1. Extended Exam Validity Period

Section 44225.4 was added to the Education Code to extend the validity period from 10 to 11 years for examination scores used to satisfy a requirement for the issuance of a credential, certificate, permit, or waiver. The change is in effect from March 19, 2020 to June 30, 2021, inclusive.

2. Extended Application/Credential Fee Validity Period

Section 44235.4 was added to the Education Code to extend the application or credential fee validity period from 60 to 120 days for a candidate to submit certain paper application materials. This provision gives applicants more time to submit materials when access to those materials may be limited or delayed due to COVID-19. The change is in effect from March 19, 2020 to June 30, 2021, inclusive.

3. Pupil Personal Services Field Practice Requirements

Section 44266.5 was added to the Education Code to temporarily change the field practice requirements for those earning Pupil Personnel Services credentials (i.e., counselors, school psychologists, school social workers and attendance workers). In response to school site closures, candidates may complete the requirements in a single school setting instead of the previous requirement of two or more settings. The change is in effect from March 19, 2020 to June 30, 2021, inclusive.

Status of Legislation

This agenda item provides an update on Commission sponsored legislation as well as bills the Commission is monitoring or has taken a position on.

2019-20 Sponsored Legislation

[AB 2485 \(Kalra\) - Teacher Credentialing: Subject Matter Competence](#)

Introduced: February 19, 2020

Last Amended: May 12, 2020

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee

Summary: This bill would give teaching credential candidates additional flexibility for demonstrating that they meet the statutory Subject Matter Requirements (SMRs) for the credential they are seeking. In addition to taking and passing a California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CEST) and completion of a Subject Matter Program, candidates would be permitted to use undergraduate or graduate coursework, completed as part of a major at a regionally-accredited institution of higher education, to demonstrate competency aligned with existing SMRs. They would also be permitted to mix-and-match competencies from available options. These provisions sunset on December 31, 2023.

[AB 2541 \(Medina\) - Teacher Preparation Programs: Regionally Accredited Institutions](#)

Introduced: February 19, 2020

Last Amended: May 04, 2020

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee

Summary: This bill would provide the Commission with the authority to recognize that a degree conferred by an institution of higher education (IHE) in preaccreditation status is valid once the IHE and program of study successfully complete the accreditation process. The measure also clarifies that the Commission has the authority to create regulations for this purpose.

Additional Notes: Due to COVID-19, the bill has not been set for a hearing.

2019-20 Supported Legislation

[AB 1982 \(Cunningham\) - Teacher Preparation Programs: Regionally Accredited Institutions](#)

Introduced: January 23, 2020

Last Amended: May 11, 2020

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee

Summary: This bill would create a new option for teacher candidates to demonstrate the Basic Skills Requirement (BSR) by permitting the Commission to accept letter grades of B or higher in credit-bearing higher education coursework in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills in the English language in place of the CBEST. The measure will further permit candidates to meet the BSR through a combination of different options. These provisions sunset on December 31, 2023.

Additional Notes: Assemblymember Cunningham accepted the Commission's proposed amendments.

2019-20 Legislation of Interest

The legislature is currently in the second year of the two-year 2019-20 legislative session. Assembly bills introduced, but not passed out of their house of origin by the June 19, 2020 deadline (or June 26, 2020 for Senate bills) are considered “dead” for the legislative year. The legislature was scheduled to reconvene on July 13 but due COVID-19 the return was postponed to July 27.

Examinations

[SB 614 \(Rubio\) - Teacher Credentialing: Reading Instruction](#)

Introduced: February 22, 2019

Last Amended: July 27, 2020

Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee

Summary: This bill would make changes to the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) statute. Upon enactment, it would repeal the RICA examination and require preparation programs to ensure candidates are prepared to teach reading and literacy through a program-embedded performance-based measure. The Commission would be required to (1) ensure through the accreditation process that all approved teacher preparation programs instruct and reliably assess candidates using a program embedded performance-based measure to ensure individual competence to deliver and facilitate comprehensive and research-based reading instruction, and (2) develop and make available to teacher preparation programs standards, templates, and general guidance for performance based assessment tools, instruments and processes. Candidates who do not receive the program-embedded performance-based measure would be required to take an assessment aligned with current standards. Education Specialist and Multiple Subject candidates would be required to pass the performance-based measure starting July 1, 2022. Single Subject candidates would be required to pass the performance-based measure starting July 1, 2023.

Preparation Programs

[AB 2175 \(Gipson\) - School nurses: Credentialing](#)

Introduced: February 11, 2020

Last Amended: n/a

Status: In Assembly Education Committee. Failed deadline.

Summary: This bill would clarify that the Commission may approve a program operated by a local education agency for a services credential with a specialization in health for a school nurse. The program would be consistent with existing school nurse credential standards.

Additional Notes: This bill is now dead for the 2019-20 legislative session.

[AB 2684 \(Rubio\) - School Employee Credentialing: Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Services: Workgroup](#)

Introduced: February 20, 2020

Last Amended: n/a

Status: In Assembly Education Committee. Failed deadline.

Summary: This bill would direct the Commission to convene a workgroup to consider a services credential in Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy.

Additional Notes: This bill is now dead for the 2019-20 legislative session.

Certification

[AB 2708 \(Obernalte\) - Teacher Credentialing: Military Spouses: Basic Skills Proficiency](#)

Introduced: February 20, 2020

Last Amended: March 16, 2020

Status: In Assembly Education Committee. Failed deadline.

Summary: This bill would extend, from one year to two years, the period of time a military spouse who is an out-of-state credential holder has to demonstrate the basic skills requirement. These spouses must have relocated to California under orders received by their partners from a branch of the United States Armed Forces.

Additional Notes: This bill is now dead for the 2019-20 legislative session.

General

[AB 2309 \(Berman\) - Teacher Credentialing: Supplementary Authorization: Computer Science: Grant Program](#)

Introduced: February 14, 2020

Last Amended: March 9, 2020

Status: In Assembly Education Committee. Failed deadline.

Summary: This bill would require the Commission, upon the appropriation of funds, to develop and implement the Computer Science Preparing Educators Grant Program. This program would award competitive grants to postsecondary institutions for the development of preservice credential programs and for the development of curriculum for teachers seeking a supplementary authorization in Computer Science.

Additional Notes: This bill is now dead for the 2019-20 legislative session.

[AB 3002 \(Robert Rivas\) - Teachers: Teacher Shortage and Diversity Programs: Evaluation](#)

Introduced: February 21, 2020

Last Amended: n/a

Status: In Assembly Education Committee. Failed deadline.

Summary: This bill would require the Commission to conduct an annual evaluation of all investments in addressing teacher shortages and teacher diversity, including the Teacher Residency Grant Program, the Local Solutions Grant Program, the Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program, and the Golden State Teacher Grant Program, through 2030.

Additional Notes: This bill is now dead for the 2019-20 legislative session.