

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: November 28, 2001 01-0016

TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

FROM: Sam W. Swofford, Ed. D.
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Passage of Senate Bill 837 (Scott)
Pertaining to Emergency Permits

On October 5, 2001, Governor Davis signed Senate Bill 837 (Scott) (Statutes of 2001, Chapter 585). SB 837 amends Education Code Section 44300 relating to the issuance of emergency permits. The bill specifies the policies and practices a district must undertake when conducting a diligent search for suitable credentialed teachers. It also gives the Commission authorization to deny a district's request for emergency permits when a district does not conduct a diligent search. The bill contained an urgency clause; consequently it became effective October 5, 2001. A detailed review of the specific requirements, changes and the new Declaration of Need (CL-500) are outlined in this Coded Correspondence.

Existing law authorizes the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue or renew emergency teaching permits when school districts make a diligent search for, but are unable to recruit, a sufficient number of certificated teachers. SB 837 now defines a diligent search as one that includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Distributing job announcements
- Contacting college and university placement centers
- Advertising in local newspapers
- Exploring the incentives included in the Teaching As A Priority Block Grant
- Participating in the state and regional recruitment centers
- Participating in job fairs in California

The second provision of the bill adds Education Code Section 44300(b) that allows the Commission to deny a district's request for emergency permits if the district does not have policies and practices in place for conducting a diligent search as outlined in the bill.

Additionally, the Commission will be conducting random audits of districts to determine compliance of SB 837.

Declaration of Need For Fully Qualified Educators

The California Code of Regulations, Title 5, currently requires all school districts using emergency permit teachers to estimate the number of emergency permits needed in the upcoming school year. The estimate must be made public at the local governing board meeting. The estimate and governing board approval are sent to the Commission in an annual "Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators". If a current "Declaration of Need" is not on file with the Commission, no emergency permits will be issued for use in the school district for that year. Please refer to Coded Correspondence 00-0010 and 99-9931 for additional information.

The Declaration of Need For Fully Qualified Educators has been revised to include a section verifying the requirements for a diligent search. The new Declaration of Need will be used to meet the annual documentation for a diligent search required by SB 837 and must be used when submitting the Declaration for the 2002-2003 school year. A revised Declaration of Need and new procedures are outlined below.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the changes of SB 837, please call the Commission's Information Services office at (888) 921-2682 or (916) 445-7254 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm weekdays, or visit our web site at www.ctc.ca.gov or send an e-mail to credentials@ctc.ca.gov.