

- SUBJECT:** Relating to requirements for state educator certification examinations
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Aycock, Allen, J. Davis, Deshotel, Dutton, Farney, Huberty, K. King, Ratliff, J. Rodriguez, Villarreal
- 0 nays
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 3 — 30-0
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Melva Cardenas, Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators; Monty Exter, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Lindsay Gustafson, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Ben Maddox, Kids First; Mike Moses; Jim Nelson; Sandra West, Science Teachers of Texas)
- Against — None
- On — David Anderson, Texas Education Agency
- BACKGROUND:** Under Education Code, ch. 21, to be a certified elementary or secondary teacher in Texas, a person must, among other requirements, pass certification exams required by the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC).
- The exam for a generalist teaching certificate for early childhood through the sixth-grade and a generalist teaching certificate for grades 4-8 consist of subsections that focus on core subjects such as English, math, social studies, and science. There is no requirement that a person pass each of the exam's subsections because only the exam's cumulative score is reported to certifying agencies and employers.
- DIGEST:** SB 1555 would amend Education Code, sec. 21.048, to require the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to determine by January 1, 2014 the satisfactory level of performance required for each teacher certification test.

For the issuance of a generalist certificate, the SBEC would have to require a teacher to achieve a satisfactory level test performance in each core subject.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2013.