

SUBJECT: Authorizing military personnel to receive certain certification credentials

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Aycock, Bohac, Deshotel, Dutton, Farney, Galindo, González, K. King

0 nays

3 absent — Allen, Huberty, VanDeaver

WITNESSES: For — J. Scott Fikes, Education Career Alternative Program; John Peter Lund, Texas Teachers; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Rae Queen, Alternative Certification for Teachers San Antonio; Jon Fisher, Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas; Mike Meroney, Coalition for Effective Educator Preparation; Annie Spilman, National Federation of Independent Business Texas; Nelson Salinas, Texas Association of Business; Felicia Wright, Texas Association of Builders; Melva V. Cardenas, Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators; Stephanie Simpson, Texas Association of Manufacturers)

Against — None

On — Zenobia Joseph; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Marilyn Cook and Tim Miller, Texas Education Agency; Ted Melina Raab, Texas American Federation of Teachers)

BACKGROUND: Education Code, sec. 21.049 requires the State Board for Educator Certification to establish rules for educator certification programs as an alternative to traditional educator preparation programs. One example of such a program is Texas Troops to Teachers, which supports former military personnel in their transition from armed services to the classroom.

Alternative certification programs for veterans exist, but many do not satisfy the complex licensure requirements to teach career and technology

education courses.

DIGEST: HB 2014 would expand eligibility for military personnel seeking career and technology education certification. Military personnel would be considered to have satisfied the State Board for Educator Certification's requirement of obtaining a license or professional credential for a specific trade if the individual had experience in that trade received through military service.

The board could not require military personnel seeking a career and technology education certification to obtain a credential or experience for that trade other than the experience received through military service.

This 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, 2015.