

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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H.B. 3660
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Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas law entitles career or technology education teachers to salary step credit for up to two years of work experience as if it were teaching experience in public schools if such experience is required for certification in a career technology field. Those teachers, however, may not purchase credit in the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) for the years for which they are given salary step credit. H.B. 3660 authorizes a certified career or technology education teacher to establish credit in TRS for up to two years of related work experience.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 3660 sets forth provisions regarding service credit under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas for certain work experience of certified career and technology education teachers.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 823E, Government Code, by adding Section 823.404, as follows:

Sec. 823.404. WORK EXPERIENCE BY CAREER OR TECHNOLOGY TEACHER. (a) Authorizes an eligible member of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) to establish equivalent membership service credit for employment for which the member is entitled to salary step credit under Section 21.403(b), Education Code, which entitles a certified career or technology teacher to a salary step for each year of work experience in a related field for up to two years.

(b) Provides that a member is eligible to establish equivalent membership service credit if the member has at least five years of membership service credit.

(c) Authorizes a member to establish equivalent membership service credit by depositing a specific amount with TRS for each year of service. Provides that the amount is the actuarial present value of the additional standard retirement annuity benefits that would be attributable to the conversion of the work experience into service credit based on rates and tables recommended by the actuary and adopted by the board of trustees of TRS.

(d) Requires TRS to grant the member one year of equivalent membership service credit for each year of service approved, after a member makes the deposit.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 823.004(a), Government Code, to require credit for work experience in a career or technology field to be computed on a September 1 through August 31 school year.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 825.307(a), Government Code, to make conforming and nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 5. Emergency clause.