
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1392

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB) to approve minimum content knowledge requirements for teacher certification subject area endorsements, with new ways for applicants seeking endorsements to prove content knowledge other than passing an assessment in the applicable subject matter. The bill applies these alternative methods to candidates seeking teacher certification for the first time and to those who hold a certification who are seeking a cross-endorsement in another subject area. By law, candidates must satisfy requirements for subject area content knowledge to obtain their required subject matter endorsement.

The bill also gives CEPCB exclusive authority to develop and approve standards and proposals for educator preparation and certification regulations and legislation. In current law, the State Board of Education (SBE) has joint authority over these matters with CEPCB. The bill removes SBE from this process (by law and unchanged by the bill, SBE still grants candidates their certifications and subject matter endorsements). The bill also expands CEPCB's duties to include developing requirements and guidance for regulations and legislation.

Lastly, the bill makes various minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

TEACHING CERTIFICATE SUBJECT AREA ENDORSEMENTS

Minimum Content Knowledge Requirements

By law, in order to teach in a public school, a teacher must hold a teaching certificate with the necessary subject area endorsement (e.g.,

elementary education, special education, biology, and art). Among other requirements, applicants for subject area endorsements must demonstrate their knowledge in the subject area in which they seek endorsement; current law requires applicants to do so by passing the appropriate SBE-approved subject area assessment (e.g., the Praxis test).

The bill instead requires CEPCB, by July 1, 2025, to approve minimum content knowledge requirements for a teacher certification candidate seeking an endorsement in a specific subject area, including methods for demonstrating the content knowledge. Under the bill, the methods for demonstrating content knowledge must include, at a minimum, existing law's SBE-approved subject area assessment option and the following two additional alternative methods:

1. satisfactory completion of an assessment that is evidence-based, rigorous, feasible, and considered valid and reliable by professional educator preparation accreditation bodies, and
2. satisfactory completion of a residency program, apprenticeship program, or similar educator preparation program or experience, for a period of at least 12 months and that is under the supervision of an accredited educator preparation program and the guidance of a mentor educator and a certified school administrator.

The board must, at least biennially, review and update, as necessary, these requirements.

Applicability

The bill applies these alternative methods to candidates seeking teacher certification for the first time and to those who hold a certification and are seeking a cross-endorsement in another subject area. Specifically, it applies to teacher certification candidates or certified teachers in the following situations:

1. a person who does not hold a valid teacher certificate (new candidates);

2. a certified teacher seeking to add an additional subject area endorsement;
3. a person applying for an elementary education certification (current law specifies the assessment is in math, but the bill leaves specifics up to CEPCB);
4. a certified teacher seeking a cross endorsement in a teacher shortage area determined by the education commissioner;
5. a certified teacher seeking a cross endorsement (but excludes special education, teaching English to speakers of other languages, bilingual, remedial reading, remedial language arts, or school library media specialist);
6. a certification applicant to teach in a subject shortage area or to teacher in computer science; and
7. minority teacher candidate fellows' program.

By law, every year the education commissioner determines a list of teacher shortage areas based on vacancies reported by school districts (see BACKGROUND).

CEPCB AUTHORITY

Under current law the 16-member CEPCB has a broad charge of modernizing and aligning educator preparation and certification to attract and retain diverse professionals into teaching. Among other things, the board must (1) review educator preparation and certification regulations and statutes for obsolete or conflicting provisions, (2) develop review standards for new or continuing educator preparation programs, and (3) develop legislation relating to educator preparation and certification.

The bill authorizes CEPCB to have exclusive authority to develop and approve requirements, standards, guidance, and proposals for educator preparation and certification regulations and legislation. Under current law, SBE has joint authority with CEPCB over these matters, and CEPCB

authority only includes standards and proposals.

Current law requires CEPCB and SBE to each develop standards and proposals for regulations and legislation relating to educator preparation and certification and requires each board to either approve or reject the proposals of the other. The bill removes SBE from this process.

Under the bill, CEPCB-approved proposals for (1) regulations must be submitted to SBE and SBE must adopt them as regulations and (2) legislation must be submitted to the Education Committee. (By law, SBE has regulations making authority.)

The bill also makes numerous conforming changes.

BACKGROUND

Teacher Shortage Areas

The following is a selection of teacher shortage areas as determined by the State Department of Education for the 2024-25 academic year:

1. all grades: bilingual education, special education, and speech and language pathology;
2. grades 4-12: math, science; and
3. grades 7-12: history and social studies, world languages.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 12 (03/24/2025)