

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: May 30, 2007
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 112
AUTHOR: J. Scott

BILL SUMMARY: Basic Skills Proficiency for Returning Teachers

Current law prohibits a school district from hiring any certificated person unless that person has passed the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST), with certain exceptions. A certificated person is not currently required to take the test if they have been employed in any school district in a position requiring certification within 39 months of employment with the district or if they are a retired certificated employee who meets specified requirements. Current law allows districts to temporarily hire persons not meeting the 39 month employment requirement on the condition that the individual will take the test within one year.

This bill would delete these exemptions and instead specify that a certificated person would not be required to take the CBEST if they have previously taken and passed the test at least once, achieved a passing score on the Graduate Records Exam (GRE) General Test, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), or the ACT Plus Writing test, or possessed a credential prior to the enactment of the statute that made the test a requirement.

In addition, this bill would clarify that a "beginning teacher" does not include a teacher with a life credential, a clear credential, or a professional clear teaching credential who returns to serve in a certificated teaching position for purposes of the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Program (BTSA).

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Finance (Finance) does not anticipate increased costs related to the changes proposed by this bill.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the March 26, 2007 version include the following significant amendment, which does not change our position.

- Provides that a "beginning teacher" excludes a teacher with a life credential, a clear credential, or a professional clear teaching credential who returns to serve in a certificated teaching position for purposes of the BTSA program.

COMMENTS

Finance is neutral on this bill for the following reasons:

- This bill would reduce barriers for experienced teachers who wish to return to service in the classroom.
This bill is consistent with the changes that were made in SB 1209 (Chapter 517, Statutes 2006), which provided that a passing score on the GRE, SAT, or the ACT Plus Writing would satisfy the basic skills proficiency requirement for new teachers.

Analyst/Principal Date Program Budget Manager Date
(0383) S. Swan Jeannie Oropeza

Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved
Position Disapproved

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

AMENDMENT DATE

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May 30, 2007

SB 112

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2006-2007	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	
6360/Teacher Cred	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0407
6110/Dept of Educ	SO	Yes		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0001
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0001	General Fund								
0407	Teacher Credentials Fund								