

Date of Hearing: March 22, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair  
AB 226 (Cervantes and Chavez) – As Amended March 14, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Teacher credentialing: application priority: spouses of military personnel

**SUMMARY:** Requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to grant or deny an application for a credential within 7 days of receipt if the applicant holds a valid teaching credential in another state and is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Requires the CTC to process credential applications within 50 business days of receipt. (Education Code Section 44350)
- 2) Specifies that in order to expedite the application process for the benefit of applicants for credentials, certificates, permits, or other documents issued by the commission, the commission may receive from, or transmit to, the agency that submitted the application, either electronically or by printed copy, the information set forth in that application; and specifies that “agency” means a school district, county office of education, or institution of higher education having a commission-approved program of professional preparation. (Education Code Section 44230)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:** According to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, "Approximately eighty percent of all applications are submitted online, including recommendations submitted by credential programs and employing agencies. Renewal applications are processed online as well. The remaining twenty percent are paper applications. Online renewals were processed within an average of three business days, and recommendations from an approved program were processed within an average of one business day when no additional review was required. Paper applications submitted directly from an applicant were processed within an average of forty-two business days when no additional review was required. The data for this reporting period show that ninety-six percent of applications were processed within the statutory timeline [of 50 days], with over seventy-seven percent of all applications being processed within five business days."

***Expedited Credential Processing.*** The CTC currently expedites credential applications that come from school districts and other agencies. According to the CTC, the expedited application processing timeframe varies a bit based on the type of application (regular credentials process much faster than emergency documents like STSPs and PIPs, for example) and time of year, but the average is less than 10 days. The expedited process occurs most often when a teacher has been hired by an agency, and that agency submits the teacher's application for expedited processing.

Because the average length of time for processing credential applications is 42 days and the average length of time for processing expedited credentials received from school districts and

other agencies is less than 10 days, the committee should consider whether creating a specific 7 day timeline for military spouses is necessary.

According to the author, state teacher certification is generally designed to credential a teacher to work within a school district over extended periods of time. Policies that allow a teacher certified in another state to become credentialed in a new state require extensive documentation and may require additional testing and course work. Military spouse teachers are expected to accomplish these credentialing requirements every two to three years due to military directed moves. Military spouse teachers often encounter difficulty acquiring licensure in a state after a move. Establishing a temporary certificate, or expediting application and adjudication processes for military spouses may alleviate the delays in garnering certification to teach in that in the state. Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to, among other duties, establish standards for the issuance and renewal of credentials, certificates, and permits.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

United States Department of Defense

**Opposition**

None on file

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