

Date of Hearing: June 27, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Patrick O'Donnell, Chair

SB 1383 (Fuller) – As Amended June 19, 2018

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

SUBJECT: Teacher credentialing: Committee of Credentials: membership

SUMMARY: Increases the number of members of the Committee of Credentials at the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and makes changes to the qualifications of committee members. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Increases the number of appointed members of the Committee of Credentials (COC) from seven members to nine members.
 - a) Requires one of the new members to be a classroom teacher in any public school with not less than five years of classroom experience.
 - b) Requires one of the new members to be a retired certified elementary or secondary school educator in good standing with not less than five years of experience in any public school.
- 2) Specifies that a member of the governing board of a school district whose tenure on the governing board ends while serving a term on the committee may continue to serve the remainder of the term on the committee, but shall be ineligible for reappointment to the committee.
- 3) Authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to establish an alternate list of individuals qualified for the purpose of filling an unanticipated vacancy on the Committee of Credentials.
- 4) Specifies if a member of the committee is absent from any four regularly scheduled meetings in a calendar year, his or her position shall be deemed vacant.
- 5) Authorizes the CTC to establish a substitute list of individuals who have at least 12 months of prior experience serving on the committee. Authorizes the commission to designate an individual on the substitute list as a short-term substitute in the temporary absence of a regular member.

EXISTING LAW: Establishes the Committee on Credentials, which consists of seven members appointed by the CTC. The Committee is responsible for initiating all investigations into allegations of misconduct by credential holders and applicants, reviewing evidence, and recommending disciplinary actions to the CTC. The Committee's membership consists of the following:

- 1) One certified public elementary school teacher with at least five years of classroom experience.

- 2) One certified public secondary school teacher with at least five years of classroom experience.
- 3) One certified public school administrator.
- 4) One school board member who has not served in a certificated position in a public school in the preceding five years.
- 5) Three public representatives, none of whom can be an individual who has served in a certificated position in the preceding five years.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, negligible state costs.

COMMENTS: This bill makes changes to the membership of Commission on Teacher Credentialing's Committee on Credentials. The bill expands the committee membership to nine members and adds one additional teacher and one retired educator to the committee. Further, the bill authorizes the CTC to establish a list of alternates who can fill in for committee members when they are absent. The intent of the bill is to expand the capacity of the committee, since the number of cases has increased in recent years.

Committee of Credentials Background: The Committee of Credentials is a statutorily created body whose seven members are appointed by the CTC and are representatives of the following groups: Public Representatives, Elementary Teachers, School Board Members, School Administrators, and Secondary Teachers. By statute the Committee is responsible for initiating all investigations into allegations of misconduct by credential holders and applicants. In order to ensure a high level of public confidence in California teachers and other credentialed public school employees, the Commission and the Committee monitor the moral fitness and professional conduct of credential applicants and holders.

Of the cases they investigate, the vast majority come from new credential applicants and much fewer are current credential holders. As provided by the CTC, the chart below shows that over 2600 cases were opened this year for new first time applicants, whereas just over 300 cases were opened this year for existing credential holders. Note: 2017-18 data is as of 3/8/18.

New Cases Opened by Designation						
Designation	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	*2017-18
Previous Applicants	398	300	298	373	392	546
Current Credential Holder or Renewal Applicant	308	283	321	320	332	321
First Time Applicant	1906	1953	2068	2490	2573	2653

According to the author, "SB 1383 seeks to expand the Committee of Credentials membership by two members. It would also enable the Committee to establish a list of qualified, former Committee members willing to act temporary substitutes for members who are sick or absent. In an effort to maintain a quorum, SB 1383 would allow the Committee to establish an alternate list of individuals for the purpose of filling unanticipated vacancies. In order to ease recruitment, SB 1383 would eliminate the requirement that formerly certificated individuals be at least five years removed from their last certificated position. In response to a 2011 State Auditor's report, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing has dramatically improved its processing of teacher misconduct cases, which has increased the workload of the Committee of Credentials, the volunteer body responsible for reviewing misconduct allegations. In fiscal year 2010-11, 650 total cases went to initial review before the Committee, and 533 resulted in formal review. By 2016-17, those numbers increased to 1086 and 782 respectively. The monthly number of cases going to initial review has changed from approximately 45 to over 90, with 98 at the most recent meeting in March 2018. This workload has become increasingly difficult to manage in the time allotted to members, and absences or vacancies only increase the workload, while also making it difficult to maintain a quorum. This bill would expand the Committee membership and make other changes intended to ease recruitment and create a substitute list to help ensure a quorum of members at each monthly meeting."

Argument in Support: According to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, SB 1383 "would expand the membership on the Commission's Committee of Credentials, and make other needed changes in order to allow the Committee to effectively manage an increasing workload."

Argument in Opposition: According to the California Teachers Association, "The bill conflicts with CTA organizational policy written and adopted by CTA's 800+ locally elected leaders, stating, 'CTA believes that a committee of an independent credentialing board whose purpose is to investigate and/or recommend adverse action for misconduct should be composed of a majority of credential holders who are currently working in the public school classroom setting.'"

Committee Amendment: Staff recommends the bill be amended to delete the two new members from the committee on credentials, and instead keep the existing membership of the committee on credentials at seven members.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Opposition

California Teachers Association

Analysis Prepared by: Chelsea Kelley / ED. / (916) 319-2087