

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 414

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .183266.2

Short Title: Level 3B Administrative License Applicants

Sponsor(s): Senator Cynthia Nava

Analyst: David Harrell

Date: March 1, 2011 (revised)

Bill Summary:

SB 414 amends the *School Personnel Act* to require the Public Education Department (PED) to grant a Level 3-B administrative license to an applicant who holds a Level 3, nine-year “instructional support leader license” granted by the Secretary of Public Education and who is licensed to practice under the provisions of the appropriate article in the *Uniform Licensing Act*.

Although not reflected in the title, the bill also seems to combine into a single provision what are currently two separate routes to a Level 3-B license (see “Substantive Issues,” below).

Fiscal Impact:

SB 414 does not contain an appropriation.

Technical Issues:

SB 414 would have the Secretary of Public Education grant the instructional support leader license, whereas the *Public School Code* and PED rules assign that responsibility to the department.

Substantive Issues:

According to the PED analysis of SB 414, the department currently offers 22 types of instructional support provider licenses. The Level 3, a nine-year instructional support leader license, is issued to providers with six or more full years of school experience in the service area of the license.

The PED analysis questions whether applicants licensed through the method proposed by SB 414 would be sufficiently prepared for the “rigorous demands of the job for which they are licensed.”

- For one thing, current law generally presumes that teachers work their way through the teaching ranks and become involved with an education leadership program to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to become an effective school administrator.
- For another, instructional support providers may lack the experience to evaluate teachers, discipline staff, or discipline students; and they may have little teaching experience and no master’s degree.

As for the point noted under “Bill Summary,” above, current law provides two licensure-based routes to a Level 3-B administrative license by requiring PED to grant such a license to an applicant who:

- holds a Level 2 license and meets the requirements for a Level 3-A license; or
- holds a current Level 2 license and, for at least four years, has held the highest-ranked counselor license.

By striking the word “or” between these two options, SB 414 seems to collapse them into one, meaning that an applicant must meet all of the criteria described above – or the new option added by SB 414 – to be granted a Level 3-B license.

Related Bills:

None as of March 1, 2011.