

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1386

**PRINTER NO.** 4070

**AMOUNT**

See Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

June 12, 2017

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Phillips-Hill

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 1386 amends the Public School Code by establishing section 1202.1 (Instructional Certificate Grade Spans and Age Levels) to revise the grade spans and age levels for instructional certificates, beginning December 31, 2021.

The bill provides for the following certification levels for instructional certificates:

- Early childhood (prekindergarten, kindergarten, grades one through four or ages three through nine);
- Elementary (kindergarten, grades one through six or ages four through 11);
- Middle (grades six through nine or ages 11 through 15);
- Secondary (grades seven through 12 or ages 11 through 21);
- Specialized areas (prekindergarten through grade 12 or up to age 21); and
- Specialized education (prekindergarten through grade 12 or up to age 21).

The bill provides that certificates which are presently issued in accordance with 22 Pa Code, Chapter 49 (Certification of Professional Personnel) regulations shall remain valid for the term of the certificate.

The bill also allows individuals presently holding an elementary/middle or special education certificate to expand the scope of the certificate to meet the new elementary, middle and special education grade levels by a process determined by the Department of Education (department) that shall include, but not be limited to, continuing education credits or the satisfactory outcome of a PRAXIS assessment for the specific certification level.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

Presently, certification levels for instruction certificates issued before January 1, 2013 are as follows:

- Early childhood (prekindergarten, kindergarten, grades one through three or ages three through eight);
- Elementary (kindergarten, grades one through six or, ages four through 11);
- Middle (grades six through nine or ages 11 through 15);
- Secondary (grades seven through 12 or ages 11 through 21);
- Specialized areas (prekindergarten through grade 12 or up to age 21); and
- Special education (prekindergarten through grade 12 or up to age 21).

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In addition, certification levels for instruction certificates issued on or after January 1, 2013 are as follows:

- Early Childhood (prekindergarten, kindergarten, grades one through four or ages 3 through 9);
- Elementary/Middle (grades four through eight or, ages nine through 14);
- Secondary (grades seven through 12 or ages 11 through 21);
- Specialized Areas (prekindergarten through grade twelve or up through age 21);
- Special Education-PK—8 (prekindergarten through grade eight or ages three through 14);
- Special Education-7—12 (grades seven through 12 or ages 11 through 21); and,
- Special Education Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired and Speech/Language Impaired Certificates (prekindergarten, kindergarten, grades one through 12 or ages three through 21);

Additionally, individuals applying for Special Education-7—12 certification must also obtain certification in Early Childhood, Elementary/Middle or Reading Specialist, and individuals applying for Special Education-PK—8 certification must also obtain certification in Secondary or Reading Specialist.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The changes made to the Commonwealth's teacher certification requirements by the enactment of House Bill 1386 will necessitate the department's review of teacher education programs operating in the Commonwealth and applications submitted by teachers seeking to expand the scope of their current certifications.

Based on past experience with the certification changes that occurred in 2007, the department estimates that it will need to hire four additional employees to accomplish the program and application reviews at a cost of \$460,000 annually for salary and benefits. Additionally, \$160,000 in one-time costs will be incurred for the development of new certification program guidelines and a web-based application approval system to collect and process applications.