



SENATE BILL 582: High School Adjunct Instructors/CC Prep.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	February 25, 2022
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Samantha Yarborough Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2021-48		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2021-48 allows additional individuals to be adjunct instructors for courses in grades K-12.*

This act became effective June 21, 2021.

CURRENT LAW: Local boards of education can hire individuals with relevant education and employment experience as adjunct instructors to teach career and technical education (CTE) courses. Local boards can also hire individuals who are employed at institutions of higher education as faculty members as adjunct instructors to teach core academic subject in grades K-12 in their areas of knowledge or work experience. The State Board of Education (SBE) is charged with developing the criteria for both types of adjunct instructors. Local boards of education can contract with individuals who meet these criteria to be adjunct instructors on an annual or semester basis. The following requirements are in place for such contracts:

- Length of employment:
 - CTE adjunct instructors can be employed for no more than 20 hours per week or no more than 5 full consecutive months of employment and cannot earn paid leave, participate in the Teachers and State Employees' Retirement System, or receive or purchase health benefits through the State Health Plan.
 - K-12 core academic subject adjunct instructors can be employed for less than 20 hours per week or for less than 6 full consecutive months of employment. They may be classified as temporary full-time or part-time employees and based on this temporary status. They cannot earn paid leave, participate in the Teachers and State Employees' Retirement System, or receive or purchase health benefits through the State Health Plan.
- Criminal history checks must be conducted.
- Adjunct instructors cannot be required to hold or apply for licensure as a teacher.
- Adjunct instructors who are not licensed teachers must complete preservice training in the following areas prior to beginning instruction: (i) identification and education of students with disabilities; (ii) positive management of student behavior; (iii) effective communication for handling behavior issues; and (iv) safe and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint.

BILL ANALYSIS: S.L. 2021-48 does the following:

- Allows an individual employed at an institution of higher education as a faculty member to also qualify as an adjunct instructor for courses in fine and performing arts and foreign languages in grades K-12 if the person meets the criteria set by the SBE.

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- Allows an individual who (i) holds a related bachelor's degree or graduate degree and (ii) attends a community college or educator preparation program and completes courses concentrating in teacher preparation for at least one semester to be eligible to be adjunct instructor for high school-level courses in academic subjects, fine and performing arts, and foreign language in the individual's area of specialized knowledge or work experience. One semester of courses concentrating in teacher preparation means at least nine credit hours taken in a semester in a program of study leading to a certificate, diploma, or associate degree in teacher preparation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective June 21, 2021, and applies beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

**Drupti Chauhan, Staff Attorney in the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*