

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 753 (Garcia)

As Amended September 5, 2025

Majority vote. Urgency

SUMMARY

Authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) director to require contracting agencies to provide data on the number of assistant teacher permits or waivers to the California Department of Education (CDE) and CDSS, and to issue informal directives to implement this requirement. Authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) to issue a nonrenewable, two-year assistant teacher permit that allows the permitholder to assist in the care, development, and instruction of children, including temporary independent supervision for up to 120 minutes per day under teacher-level oversight. Requires implementation by January 30, 2026, sunsets these requirements one year after the adoption of the revised child development permit matrix, and adds an urgency statute.

Senate Amendments delete the Assembly version of the bill and instead:

- 1) Authorize the Superintendent and the CDSS director to require a contracting agency that employs a person who holds an assistant teacher permit to provide CDE and CDSS with data that includes the number of employees in its program who hold an assistant teacher permit or who qualified for waivers.
- 2) Authorize the data in a) above, to be collected by survey or by another collection method and clarifies that this data is required to be provided to CDE and CDSS as part the contracting agency's annual plan for its program self-evaluation process as required by state regulations or a successor statute or regulation, or as part of an existing reporting process determined by the Superintendent and director.
- 3) Authorize the Superintendent and CDSS director, notwithstanding existing law, to develop informal directives and bulletins to implement a) through b) above.
- 4) Authorize the Commission, notwithstanding existing law, to issue an assistant teacher permit that authorizes the permitholder to assist in the care, development, and instruction of children, subject to the supervision requirements described in 5) below. Clarifies that this assistance includes temporarily supervising children independently for no more than 120 minutes per day while the supervising employee leaves the classroom for purposes of offering flexibility for classroom support, during breaks, or escorting children outside of the classroom. Allows the Commission to issue a permit under this section provided that all of the following requirements are met:
 - a) The applicant has at least six units from an accredited institution of higher education in early childhood education (ECE), child development, or human development, or a combination thereof;
 - b) ii) The applicant has an education plan updated each academic year and is enrolled in a course or courses to meet the requirements for the next level permit; and,
 - c) iii) The applicant is sponsored by an employer who has a current contract with CDE or CDSS to be a CSPP provider or to be a child development program provider.

- 5) Requires an employee who holds an assistant teacher permit to be under the supervision of an employee who holds a valid Commission-issued child development permit at the teacher level, or at an equivalent or higher permit level.
- 6) Require a contracting agency that employs a person who holds an assistant teacher permit to maintain a copy of the permitholder's current education plan in their employee file.
- 7) Require a permit issued to be valid for no more than two years from the date of issuance and prohibits permit renewal.
- 8) Require the number of assistant teacher permitholders employed by a contracting agency at one site to not exceed 50% of the number of classrooms at that site. Requires the contracting agency to not assign more than one assistant teacher to each classroom.
- 9) Prohibit this section from being construed to grant to a person issued with an assistant teacher permit with the rights and responsibilities of an associate teacher permitholder, or equivalent permitholder, or higher permitholder.
- 10) Authorize CDE and CDSS, notwithstanding existing law related to administrative regulations and rulemaking, to implement d) through l) above, by means of management bulletins or similar instructions until regulations are adopted.
- 11) Require the Commission to implement this section by no later than January 30, 2026.
- 12) Sunset the above one year after the implementation of the Commission's revised child development permit matrix, or January 1, 2029, whichever is later, and, as of that date, is repealed.
- 13) Adds findings and declarations.
- 14) Adds an urgency clause.

COMMENTS

Associate Teacher Permit. The Child Development Permit Matrix outlines the licensing requirements for ECE teachers. It includes six permit levels: Assistant, Associate Teacher, Teacher, Master Teacher, Site Supervisor, and Program Director. Each permit level specifies the required education, experience, and alternative qualifications, as well as the holder's authorized duties and the renewal requirements for the five-year permit cycle.

To qualify for an Associate Teacher permit, an applicant must complete 12 units of ECE or child development coursework, including core courses, and have at least 50 days of experience working more than three hours per day within a two-year period. Alternatively, applicants may qualify by holding a nationally transferable Child Development Associate Credential. Associate Teacher permitholders are authorized to provide instruction and supervise Assistant-level permitholders. Under Title 22 regulations, they are also recognized as "fully qualified teachers" for the purposes of meeting teacher-to-child ratio requirements.

Child Development Permit Workgroup. In August 2023, the Commission convened a workgroup to review and update the permit matrix in response to the state's Master Plan for Early Learning

and Care and the Department of Education's Pre-Kindergarten initiatives. The workgroup concluded its meetings on June 12, 2024, and presented its recommendations at the Commission's October 2024 meeting. In February 2025, the Commission published a field survey update and formally approved the workgroup's final recommendations.

The updated permit matrix adopted by the Commission on February 6, 2025, establishes five levels: Early Childhood Educator I, II, and III, and Early Childhood Administrator I and II. The requirements for an Early Childhood Educator I permit remain the same as those for the current Associate Teacher permit. However, the new matrix introduces an option for provisional certification for candidates who have completed at least six units of relevant coursework, are sponsored by their employer, and are employed in a position requiring an Educator I permit. This provisional certification is valid for up to two years and cannot be renewed.

This bill would allow the Commission to issue an assistant teacher permit that allows an individual with at least six units of ECE, child development, or human development coursework to assist in the care, development, and instruction of children under supervision, including temporarily supervising children independently when a supervising teacher steps out of the classroom. To qualify, an applicant must maintain an annual education plan, be enrolled in coursework toward the next permit level, and be sponsored by an employer contracted with CDE or CDSS to provide CSPP or general childcare and development services.

This bill further requires employers to keep a copy of the permitholder's education plan on file, and permitholders are required to work under the supervision of a teacher-level or higher permitholder. The permit is valid for up to two years, cannot be renewed, and does not confer the rights of higher-level permits. *This bill* takes immediate effect as an urgency statute and will remain in place until the Commission's revised Child Development Permit Matrix is implemented, after which it becomes inoperative and is repealed the following January.

According to the Author

"Our childcare industry is in crisis. Programs are being forced to shut down and staff are leaving the field to find better wages and benefits elsewhere. With over two million children in the state currently awaiting care, an urgent solution is needed. [This bill] provides a temporary fix by expediting lengthy permit processes and providing a pathway for early childhood education teachers, ensuring programs can remain open, are fully staffed and able to better serve our children."

Arguments in Support

According to Child Action, Child Care Resource Center, Early Edge California, Kidango, and Unite-LA, "The ongoing staffing crisis in ECE programs across California threatens the stability and availability of care for families with young children. Childcare programs are struggling with insufficient staff for existing classrooms, let alone the additional classrooms needed to ensure that every California family has access to high-quality ECE opportunities. [This bill] addresses these barriers to meet the urgent needs of California families."

Arguments in Opposition

No opposition on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 25, 2025:

- 1) This bill could potentially result in additional General Fund costs to the California Department of Education (CDE) to increase its monitoring capacity and ensure that CSPP contractors employing assistant teachers are complying with state statute and providing quality classroom environments. The extent of these costs is unknown and would primarily be driven by the need to conduct in-person program monitoring reviews to ensure compliance.
- 2) The CTC and Department of Social Services (DSS) do not anticipate additional costs as a result of this measure.

VOTES:

ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 6-0-0

YES: Lee, Castillo, Calderon, Elhawary, Jackson, Celeste Rodriguez

ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0

YES: Muratsuchi, Hoover, Addis, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Patel

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Sanchez, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0-8

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bryan, Chen, Ellis, Nguyen, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Wicks

UPDATED

VERSION: September 5, 2025

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