

By: Grusendorf

H.B. No. 317

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to teacher mentor and induction programs in public schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.005. TEACHER MENTOR AND INDUCTION PROGRAMS. (a) To the extent that funds are available, the commissioner shall make grants to school districts of:

(1) \$3,000 for each new teacher employed by the district who holds a certificate under Section 21.049 or a permit under Section 21.055; and

(2) \$1,000 for each new teacher employed by the district who holds a certificate under Section 21.044 or 21.052.

(b) A school district shall use money received under Subsection (a) only to support one or more of the following in the district:

(1) a mentor or induction program for new teachers;

(2) employment of new teachers under a 12-month contract that provides training and professional development;

(3) signing bonuses for employment of new teachers in shortage areas; or

(4) payment of college tuition for appropriate semester credit hours received by a new teacher.

1 SECTION 2. Section 824.602(a), Government Code, as amended
2 by Chapters 567 and 1229, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular
3 Session, 2001, is amended to read as follows:

4 (a) Subject to Section 825.506, the retirement system may
5 not, under Section 824.601, withhold a monthly benefit payment if
6 the retiree is employed in a Texas public educational institution:

7 (1) as a substitute only with pay not more than the
8 daily rate of substitute pay established by the employer and, if the
9 retiree is a disability retiree, the employment has not exceeded a
10 total of 90 days in the school year;

11 (2) in a position, other than as a substitute, on no
12 more than a one-half time basis for the month;

13 (3) in one or more positions on as much as a full-time
14 basis, if the work occurs in not more than six months of a school
15 year that begins after the retiree's effective date of retirement;

16 (4) in a position, other than as a substitute, on no
17 more than a one-half time basis for no more than 90 days in the
18 school year, if the retiree is a disability retiree;

19 (5) in a position as a classroom teacher on as much as
20 a full-time basis, if the retiree has retired under Section
21 824.202(a), is certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education
22 Code, to teach the subjects assigned, is teaching in an acute
23 shortage area as determined by the board of trustees of a school
24 district as provided by Subsection (m), and has been separated from
25 service with all public schools for at least 12 months; [~~or~~]

26 (6) in a position as a principal, including as an
27 assistant principal, on as much as a full-time basis, if the retiree

1 has retired under Section 824.202(a) without reduction for
2 retirement at an early age, is certified under Subchapter B,
3 Chapter 21, Education Code, to serve as a principal, and has been
4 separated from service with all public schools for at least 12
5 months; ~~[-]~~

6 (7) ~~[-(6)]~~ as a bus driver for a school district on as
7 much as a full-time basis, if the retiree has retired under Section
8 824.202(a); or

9 (8) in a position as a mentor for a classroom teacher
10 on as much as a full-time basis, if the retiree:

11 (A) retired under Section 824.202(a) without
12 reduction for retirement at an early age;

13 (B) is certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21,
14 Education Code;

15 (C) has been separated from service with all
16 public schools for at least 12 months; and

17 (D) taught in a public school for at least 10
18 years and demonstrated:

19 (i) outstanding classroom teaching
20 ability;

21 (ii) talent in written and oral
22 communications;

23 (iii) the ability to work cooperatively and
24 effectively with other professional staff; and

25 (iv) extensive knowledge of a variety of
26 classroom management and instructional techniques.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and

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1 applies beginning with the 2003-2004 school year.