

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 2286

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program to encourage certification to teach bilingual education, English as a second language, or Spanish.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER N. PILOT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE CERTIFICATION
TO TEACH BILINGUAL EDUCATION, ENGLISH AS A SECOND
LANGUAGE, OR SPANISH

Sec. 21.651. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Board" means the State Board for Educator Certification.

(2) "Program" means the Pilot Program to Encourage Certification to Teach Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language, or Spanish.

Sec. 21.652. PURPOSE. The purpose of the program is to encourage students currently enrolled in junior colleges and senior colleges and universities, educational aides, and others to become certified to teach bilingual education, English as a second language, or Spanish in order to enable them to teach those classes or courses in public schools.

Sec. 21.653. ESTABLISHING PROGRAM. (a) The board by rule shall establish the program at the University of North Texas at Dallas consistent with the purpose provided by Section 21.652 for

1 students who enroll in, including students who transfer to, an
2 educator preparation program at the university to become certified
3 to teach bilingual education, English as a second language, or
4 Spanish.

5 (b) In proposing rules for the program, the board shall
6 ensure that the rules require providing notice concerning the
7 program to:

8 (1) students, regardless of major, at the University
9 of North Texas at Dallas, at other senior colleges and universities
10 in the north Texas region, and at public junior colleges in the
11 north Texas region;

12 (2) students at high schools in the north Texas
13 region; and

14 (3) educational aides at public schools in the north
15 Texas region.

16 Sec. 21.654. FINANCIAL INCENTIVES. (a) The program must
17 offer to participants financial incentives, including tuition
18 assistance and loan forgiveness. The program also may offer annual
19 stipends to postbaccalaureate candidates for teacher certification
20 in bilingual education, English as a second language, or Spanish.
21 In offering a financial incentive, the board shall:

22 (1) require a contract between each participant who
23 accepts a financial incentive and the board under which the
24 participant is obligated to:

25 (A) obtain certification to teach bilingual
26 education, English as a second language, or Spanish; and

27 (B) teach a class or course in bilingual

1 education, English as a second language, or Spanish in a public
2 school in this state for a stated period after certification; and

3 (2) provide financial incentives in proportion to the
4 length of the period the participant is obligated by contract to
5 teach after certification.

6 (b) Financial incentives may be paid only from funds
7 appropriated specifically for that purpose and from gifts, grants,
8 and donations solicited or accepted by the board for that purpose.

9 (c) The board shall propose rules establishing criteria for
10 awarding financial incentives under this section, including
11 criteria for awarding financial incentives if there are more
12 participants than funds available to provide the financial
13 incentives.

14 SECTION 2. The State Board for Educator Certification shall
15 propose rules as required under Subchapter N, Chapter 21, Education
16 Code, as added by this Act, not later than April 1, 2004.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.