

By: Hughes

H.B. No. 61

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the minimum salary for public school teachers,
librarians, counselors, and nurses.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.402, Education Code, is amended by
adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

(i) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the
commissioner shall distribute to each school district for each
school year sufficient funds to pay each classroom teacher,
full-time librarian, full-time counselor certified under
Subchapter B, or full-time school nurse \$200 for each month of the
person's contract. Funds a teacher, librarian, counselor, or nurse
receives under this subsection are not considered in determining
whether the district is paying the minimum monthly salary under
this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,
as long as a classroom teacher, full-time librarian, full-time
counselor certified under Subchapter B, or full-time school nurse
is employed by the same district, the teacher, librarian,
counselor, or nurse is entitled to a monthly salary in an amount at
least equal to the per month distributions under this subsection,
the gross monthly salary the teacher, librarian, counselor, or
nurse received for the 2004-2005 school year, and any increases in
that salary the district is to pay under the district's salary
schedule. Funds distributed to a school district under this

1 subsection are in addition to any funding the district receives
2 under Chapter 42 or from any other source. If state funds are
3 appropriated but are insufficient to fully fund this subsection,
4 the commissioner shall reduce the amount distributed to each
5 district under this subsection and the district shall reduce the
6 amount the district pays to each teacher, librarian, counselor, or
7 nurse from funds distributed under this subsection proportionately
8 so that each teacher, librarian, counselor, or nurse receives the
9 same amount from funds distributed under this subsection. A
10 decision of the commissioner concerning the amount of money to
11 which a school district is entitled under this subsection is final
12 and may not be appealed.

13 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2005-2006
14 school year.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
20 legislative session.