

By: Delisi

H.B. No. 23

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing mentors for certain classroom teachers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.458 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.458. MENTORS. (a) Each school district may assign a mentor teacher to each classroom teacher who has less than two years of teaching experience. A teacher assigned as a mentor must:

(1) teach in the same school;

(2) to the extent practicable, teach the same subject or grade level, as applicable; and

(3) meet the qualifications prescribed by commissioner rules adopted under Subsection (b).

(b) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to administer this section, including rules concerning the duties and qualifications of a teacher who serves as a mentor. The rules concerning qualifications must require that to serve as a mentor a teacher must:

(1) complete a research-based mentor and induction training program approved by the commissioner;

(2) complete a mentor training program provided by the district; and

(3) have at least three complete years of teaching experience with a superior record of assisting students, as a

1 whole, in achieving growth in student performance.

2 (c) From the funds appropriated to the agency for purposes
3 of this section, the commissioner shall adopt rules and provide
4 funding to school districts that assign mentor teachers under this
5 section. Funding provided to districts under this section may be
6 used only for providing:

7 (1) mentor teacher stipends;

8 (2) scheduled time for mentor teachers to provide
9 mentoring to assigned classroom teachers; and

10 (3) mentoring support through providers of mentor
11 training.

12 (d) In adopting rules under Subsection (c), the
13 commissioner shall rely on research-based mentoring programs that,
14 through external evaluation, have demonstrated success.

15 SECTION 2. 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.