

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 29

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to additional funding to school districts for classroom teacher salaries.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the Texas Teacher Pay Raise for Excellence Act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. (a) The legislature finds that in 1999, researchers with the Texas Education Excellence Project (TEEP) at Texas A&M University conducted a study, using a multiple regression analysis, and found a strong relationship between higher salaries for public school teachers and improved student performance on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS). The results showed this relationship was especially true in connection with students from low-income backgrounds. The researchers predicted that a one-time \$1,000 increase in average annual teacher salaries would produce significant results on average TAAS scores over a five-year period.

(b) The legislature also finds that if annual teacher salaries were increased more than \$1,000, there would likely be an even larger impact on standardized test performance than that found by the research described by Subsection (a) of this section. The average salaries of Texas teachers, however, still rank below the national averages, especially when employee benefits are included. In 2001, Texas' average teacher salary was approximately \$5,000

1 less than the national average. Comparing average teacher salaries  
2 to earnings in the private sector placed Texas near the bottom at  
3 49th in the nation for 2001-2002. Many Texas school districts face  
4 competition with the private sector in their efforts to attract  
5 educated and talented people to the teaching profession.

6 (c) The legislature also finds that in order to attract and  
7 retain high-quality teachers, Texas must establish a competitive  
8 salary scale for public school teachers. The purpose of this Act is  
9 to raise teacher salaries in order to attract better-qualified  
10 teachers to help our children succeed academically.

11 SECTION 3. TEACHER SALARY SUPPLEMENT. Subchapter I,  
12 Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.4031 to  
13 read as follows:

14 Sec. 21.4031. SALARY SUPPLEMENT FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS.

15 (a) Each full-time classroom teacher is entitled to an annual  
16 salary supplement in the amount of \$3,000. A part-time classroom  
17 teacher is entitled to a salary supplement proportionate to the  
18 percentage of full time worked by the teacher, as determined by the  
19 district in accordance with the rules of the commissioner.

20 (b) A salary supplement is not considered in determining  
21 whether the district is paying a teacher the minimum monthly salary  
22 under Section 21.402.

23 (b-1) Notwithstanding Section 21.402, for the 2006-2007  
24 school year, a full-time classroom teacher is entitled to a monthly  
25 salary that is at least equal to the greater of:

26 (1) the sum of:

27 (A) the monthly salary the teacher would have

1 received for the 2006-2007 school year under the district's salary  
2 schedule for the 2005-2006 school year, if that schedule had been in  
3 effect for the 2006-2007 school year, including any local  
4 supplement and any money representing a career ladder supplement  
5 the employee would have received in the 2006-2007 school year; and

6 (B) \$300; or

7 (2) the salary to which the employee is entitled under  
8 Section 21.402.

9 (b-2) Subsection (b-1) and this subsection expire September  
10 1, 2007.

11 (c) A full-time or part-time classroom teacher employed by a  
12 school district in the 2006-2007 school year is, as long as the  
13 teacher is employed by the same district, entitled to a salary that  
14 is at least equal to the salary the employee received for the  
15 2006-2007 school year.

16 (d) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
17 implement this section.

18 SECTION 4. Subchapter E, Chapter 42, Education Code, is  
19 amended by adding Section 42.2513 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 42.2513. ADDITIONAL STATE AID OR CREDIT AGAINST COST  
21 OF ATTENDANCE CREDITS FOR CLASSROOM TEACHER SALARIES. (a) A school  
22 district, including a school district that is otherwise ineligible  
23 for state aid under this chapter, is entitled to state aid in an  
24 amount, as determined by the commissioner, equal to the product of  
25 \$3,000 multiplied by the number of full-time equivalent employees  
26 employed by the district as classroom teachers.

27 (b) A school district that is required to take action under

1 Chapter 41 to reduce its wealth per student to the equalized wealth  
2 level is entitled to a credit, in the amount of state aid to which  
3 the district is entitled under this section, against the total  
4 amount required under Section 41.093 for the district to purchase  
5 attendance credits.

6 (c) A determination by the commissioner under this section  
7 is final and may not be appealed.

8 (d) The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this  
9 section.

10 SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2006-2007  
11 school year.

12 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the  
17 legislative session.