

By: Eissler

H.B. No. 1668

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the governor's award for teaching excellence program.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER O. GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Sec. 21.701. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "program" means the Governor's Award for Teaching Excellence Program.

Sec. 21.702. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. The agency shall establish a program to:

(1) annually recognize and honor classroom teachers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in teaching; and

(2) assist efforts to attract new teachers in this state.

Sec. 21.703. ELIGIBILITY. A person is eligible for an award under the program if the person is a public school classroom teacher who holds an appropriate certificate issued under Subchapter B.

Sec. 21.704. SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS. (a) The agency shall select persons to participate in the program on the basis of applications submitted to the agency.

(b) Each application must be submitted:

(1) in the form and contain the information the agency requires; and

1 (2) in a timely manner.

2 (c) A school campus may submit the name of a nominee from the
3 campus to the school district in which the campus is located. If a
4 nominee is approved by the campus principal and the superintendent
5 of the district, the district may submit an application for a
6 nominee to the regional education service center for the service
7 center region in which the district is located.

8 (d) A regional education service center, in consultation
9 with school administrators in the region, shall appoint a selection
10 panel consisting of educators in the region, including
11 representatives of teacher associations and other educator
12 associations. The selection panel shall:

13 (1) review applications submitted to the service
14 center under Subsection (c);

15 (2) select nominees to participate in the program; and

16 (3) forward the application of selected nominees to
17 the agency.

18 Sec. 21.705. PREFERENCES. In selecting persons to nominate
19 or select for participation in the program, a regional education
20 service center and the agency shall give preference to a person who
21 demonstrates:

22 (1) professional growth and development over the
23 course of the person's teaching career;

24 (2) passion and commitment to teaching;

25 (3) innovation and creativity in the classroom; and

26 (4) knowledge of current teaching techniques and
27 educational issues.

1 Sec. 21.706. AWARDS AND DUTIES. (a) From funds
2 appropriated for the purpose and to the extent consistent with
3 Subsection (b), the agency shall pay to each person selected to
4 participate in the program a stipend equal to at least \$10,000.

5 (b) To receive a stipend under this section, a program
6 participant must agree to:

7 (1) share best practices with other teachers in the
8 state through the use of an existing communications network or by
9 traveling to conferences or other appropriate locations, as
10 determined by the agency;

11 (2) provide input regarding education issues and
12 policies; and

13 (3) serve on an advisory council to the governor, as
14 determined by the governor.

15 (c) A program participant is entitled to reimbursement of
16 the travel expenses incurred by the participant while traveling
17 under Subsection (b)(1), as provided by the General Appropriations
18 Act.

19 (d) A participant in the program who fails to comply with
20 the requirements of Subsection (b) shall reimburse the agency for
21 the stipend as determined by the commissioner.

22 (e) A stipend a teacher receives under this section:

23 (1) is in addition to the regular salary to which a
24 teacher is otherwise entitled under a school district's salary
25 schedule; and

26 (2) is not considered in determining whether a
27 district is paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary under

1 Section 21.402.

2 Sec. 21.707. RULES. The commissioner shall adopt rules to
3 implement this subchapter.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.