

By: Uresti

H.B. No. 2858

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to public school staff development requirements for teachers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.4511 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.4511. STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED FOR TEACHERS. (a) The staff development provided by a school district for a teacher must be appropriate for the teacher's subject area and grade level of instruction.

(b) The number of staff development days required for a teacher with seven or more years of teaching experience must be lower than the number of days required for a teacher with less than seven years of experience.

(c) A school district shall dedicate one staff development day each school year to informing teachers of existing education laws and rules, including laws and rules that relate to rights of teachers.

(d) A school district shall periodically provide a substitute teacher as the district determines necessary to allow a teacher to:

(1) visit other classrooms to share ideas on improving classroom management or instruction;

(2) coordinate common planning days with teachers

1 teaching at the same grade level; and

2 (3) attend a monthly planning day, organized by grade
3 level and subject, to maintain consistency in curriculum and
4 instruction in the subject.

5 (e) A school district must include time spent by a teacher
6 participating in the following activities when determining whether
7 a teacher has completed the minimum number of hours of staff
8 development required by the district:

9 (1) staff development programs attended on weekends,
10 between semesters, and in the summer, if related to the teacher's
11 subject area of instruction and approved by a department director
12 or other appropriate person, as determined by the district;

13 (2) on-campus meetings and release days used to
14 discuss student achievement, curriculum, and instruction; and

15 (3) involvement in an activity described by Subsection
16 (d).

17 (f) To the extent of a conflict between this section and
18 Section 21.451, this section prevails.

19 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2005-2006
20 school year.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.