

By: Strama

H.B. No. 2935

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to assigning a mentor teacher to a first year classroom
3 teacher.

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

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

7 Sec. 21.458. MENTORS. (a) Each school district shall
8 assign a mentor teacher to each first year classroom teacher.

9 (b) Each school district shall receive \$1,000 from the Texas
10 Education Agency for each first year classroom teacher. The money
11 received for this purpose shall be used to pay for mentor training
12 and to pay a stipend to the mentor teacher.

13 (c) The district may use local money to pay additional
14 stipends beyond the amounts provided by the agency under Subsection
15 (b) in amounts determined by the district.

16 (d) A stipend a teacher receives under subsection (b):

17 (1) is in addition to the regular salary to which a
18 teacher is otherwise entitled under the district's salary schedule;
19 and

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

23 (e) The mentor teacher shall, to the extent practicable,

24 (1) teach in the same school;

1 (2) teach the same subject or grade level, as
2 applicable; and

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

5 (f) Each mentor teacher shall complete a research-based
6 mentor training program approved by the commissioner.

7 (g) A school district that assigns a mentor teacher to a
8 first year classroom teacher shall provide at least one day of
9 training on a research-based teacher mentoring program before the
10 start of the school year for both the mentor teacher and the first
11 year classroom teacher.

12 (h) A school district that assigns a mentor teacher to a
13 first year classroom teacher shall provide for the mentor teacher
14 and the first year classroom teacher at least one day of authorized
15 absence for mentor program training during the school year.

16 (i) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
17 administer this section, including rules concerning the duties and
18 qualification of a teacher who serves as a mentor. The rules
19 concerning qualifications shall require that to serve as a mentor a
20 teacher shall have at least three complete years of teaching
21 experience. The commissioner shall develop rules, under this
22 subsection, by negotiated rule making as described in Government
23 Code Section 2008.001.

24 (j) Each school district shall develop local plans approved
25 by the commissioner for the teacher mentorship program in the
26 district.

27 (k) the commissioner shall implement this section not later

1 than September 1, 2006.

2 SECTION 2. This ACT takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.