

By: Chisum, Hartnett

H.B. No. 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to making appropriations to the Texas Education Agency for the purpose of school district property tax rate reductions.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In addition to other amounts appropriated for the Foundation School Program for all or part of the state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2009, the following amounts are appropriated to the Texas Education Agency under the Foundation School Program for the purpose of funding school district property tax rate reductions in accordance with Section 42.2516, Education Code:

(1) for the state fiscal year ending August 31, 2008:

(A) all amounts in the property tax relief fund (an estimated amount of \$4,231,466,000) are appropriated for this purpose; and

(B) if the amounts available from the property tax relief fund for that fiscal year are less than \$6,956,400,000, the additional amount necessary for the total appropriation under this subdivision to equal \$6,956,400,000 (an estimated amount of \$2,724,934,000) is appropriated from the foundation school fund for this purpose; and

(2) for the state fiscal year ending August 31, 2009:

(A) all amounts in the property tax relief fund (an estimated amount of \$3,846,492,000) are appropriated for this

1 purpose; and

2 (B) if the amounts available from the property  
3 tax relief fund for that fiscal year are less than \$7,234,700,000,  
4 the additional amount necessary for the total appropriation under  
5 this subdivision to equal \$7,234,700,000 (an estimated amount of  
6 \$3,388,208,000) is appropriated from the foundation school fund for  
7 this purpose.

8 (b) In addition to the amounts appropriated under  
9 Subsection (a)(2) of this section, any unexpended balance of the  
10 amount appropriated for the state fiscal year ending August 31,  
11 2008, under Subsection (a)(1) of this section is appropriated to  
12 the Texas Education Agency for the purpose described by Subsection  
13 (a) of this section for the state fiscal year ending August 31,  
14 2009.

15 (c) In the event there are insufficient amounts in the  
16 property tax relief fund and the foundation school fund to fund the  
17 entire appropriation under Subsection (a)(1) of this section for  
18 the state fiscal year ending August 31, 2008, the commissioner of  
19 education may, with the prior approval of the governor and the  
20 Legislative Budget Board, transfer amounts appropriated under  
21 Subsection (a)(2) of this section for the state fiscal year ending  
22 August 31, 2009, in an amount not to exceed the amount necessary to  
23 cover the shortfall, and spend the transferred amounts for the  
24 purpose described by Subsection (a) of this section during the  
25 state fiscal year ending August 31, 2008. The comptroller shall:

26 (1) transfer money from the general revenue fund or  
27 other available sources into the foundation school fund as

1 necessary to accomplish an approved transfer of appropriations  
2 between fiscal years under this subsection; and

3           (2) reduce the amount that may be appropriated under  
4 Subsection (a)(2) of this section from the foundation school fund  
5 accordingly.

6           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.