

By: Strama

H.B. No. 2408

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to state funding for annual stipends provided to public
3 school teachers who serve as mentors to other public school
4 teachers.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 21.458, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (c-1), (c-2), and
8 (c-3) to read as follows:

9 (c) From the funds allocated under Section 21.703 or other
10 funds appropriated to the agency for purposes of this section, the
11 commissioner shall adopt rules and provide funding to school
12 districts that assign mentor teachers under this section. Funding
13 provided to districts under this section may be used only for
14 providing:

15 (1) mentor teacher stipends in the amount of \$2,000
16 per teacher for each school year during which the teacher serves as
17 a mentor;

18 (2) scheduled time for mentor teachers to provide
19 mentoring to assigned classroom teachers; and

20 (3) mentoring support through providers of mentor
21 training.

22 (c-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), a school district may
23 use funds provided under that subsection for a purpose authorized
24 by Subsection (c)(2) or (3) only to the extent that funds remain

1 after fully funding the stipends authorized by Subsection (c)(1).

2 (c-2) Subsection (c-1) does not create a property right of a
3 teacher to receive a stipend. If a school district receives
4 insufficient funds to fully fund the stipends, the district shall
5 reduce the stipend the district pays to each teacher serving as a
6 mentor proportionately so that each teacher serving as a mentor
7 receives the same amount of money.

8 (c-3) A stipend a teacher receives under this section is not
9 considered in determining whether the district is paying the
10 teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section 21.402.

11 SECTION 2. Sections 21.703(a), (b), and (d), Education
12 Code, are amended to read as follows:

13 (a) Each state fiscal year, the commissioner shall deposit
14 the sum of \$1,000 multiplied by the number of classroom teachers in
15 this state to the credit of the educator excellence fund in the
16 general revenue fund. Each state fiscal year, the agency shall use:

17 (1) from the funds in the educator excellence fund,
18 the amount necessary to fund stipends under Section 21.458 for
19 teachers who serve as mentors to other teachers, provided that not
20 more than \$150 million may be used for this purpose each fiscal
21 year;

22 (2) not more than \$100 million of any remaining ~~[the]~~
23 funds in the educator excellence fund to provide grant awards under
24 the awards for student achievement program established under
25 Subchapter N; and

26 (3) [+2+] any remaining funds in the educator
27 excellence fund to provide a qualifying school district a grant in

1 an amount determined by:

2 (A) dividing the amount of remaining money
3 available for distribution in the educator excellence fund by the
4 total number of students in average daily attendance in qualifying
5 districts for that fiscal year; and

6 (B) multiplying the amount determined under
7 Paragraph (A) by the number of students in average daily attendance
8 in the district.

9 (b) Subsection (a) applies beginning with the state fiscal
10 year beginning September 1, 2008. In the state fiscal year
11 beginning September 1, 2007, the commissioner shall deposit \$840
12 multiplied by the number of classroom teachers in this state to the
13 credit of the educator excellence fund in the general revenue fund.
14 The agency shall use:

15 (1) from the funds in the educator excellence fund,
16 the amount necessary to fund stipends under Section 21.458 for
17 teachers who serve as mentors to other teachers, provided that not
18 more than \$150 million may be used for this purpose;

19 (2) not more than \$100 million of any remaining ~~[the]~~
20 funds in the educator excellence fund to provide grant awards under
21 the awards for student achievement program established under
22 Subchapter N; and

23 (3) [~~(2)~~] any remaining funds in the educator
24 excellence fund to provide a qualifying school district a grant in
25 an amount determined by:

26 (A) dividing the amount of remaining money
27 available for distribution in the educator excellence fund by the

1 total number of students in average daily attendance in qualifying
2 districts for that fiscal year; and

3 (B) multiplying the amount determined under
4 Paragraph (A) by the number of students in average daily attendance
5 in the district.

6 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) or (b), the agency may
7 use funds in the educator excellence fund remaining after
8 compliance with Subsection (a)(1) or (b)(1), as applicable, as
9 necessary to conduct or contract with another entity to conduct the
10 evaluation required under Section 21.706. This subsection expires
11 June 1, 2011.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.