

By: Giddings

H.B. No. 2657

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2657:

By: Eissler

C.S.H.B. No. 2657

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot project to lower teacher turnover rates in high-need public school districts.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.419 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.419. SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR TEACHERS IN HIGH-NEED PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS; PILOT PROJECT. (a) The commissioner shall establish a pilot project in school districts selected by the commissioner to pay salary supplements to teachers who commit to teach for at least three years in one of the districts at any campus considered academically unacceptable under Section 39.132.

(b) In selecting school districts under Subsection (a), the commissioner shall select districts:

(1) in which at least 70 percent of the number of students enrolled in the district are educationally disadvantaged;

(2) that have a substantial number of campuses considered academically unacceptable under Section 39.132; and

(3) that have high teacher turnover rates.

(c) From amounts appropriated to the agency, the commissioner shall award grants to school districts that participate in the program. A grant under this section must be in an amount sufficient to pay the costs to the district of participating in the program, as determined by the commissioner. A

1 determination of the commissioner is final and may not be appealed.

2 (d) A school district may use a grant awarded under
3 Subsection (c) only to pay a salary supplement to a teacher who
4 commits to teach for three years beginning with the 2007-2008
5 school year at any campus in the district considered academically
6 unacceptable under Section 39.132. The district shall pay
7 one-third of the salary supplement as a signing bonus and pay the
8 remaining two-thirds of the salary supplement only at the end of the
9 teacher's three-year commitment to the district. A teacher who
10 does not fulfill the three-year commitment is not entitled to any
11 portion of the remaining two-thirds of the salary supplement.

12 (e) The provisions of Chapter 21 regarding resignation
13 apply in the same manner to a teacher employed under a contract who
14 commits to teach in a district under this section as to a teacher
15 employed under a contract to teach in any district.

16 (f) A grant a school district receives under this section is
17 in addition to any funding the district receives under Chapter 42.
18 The commissioner shall distribute funds under this section with the
19 Foundation School Program payment to which the district is entitled
20 as soon as practicable after the end of the school year as
21 determined by the commissioner. A district to which Chapter 41
22 applies is entitled to a grant under this section. The commissioner
23 shall determine the timing of the distribution of a grant to a
24 district that does not receive Foundation School Program payments.
25 An open-enrollment charter school is not eligible for a grant under
26 this section.

27 (g) This section does not create a property right to a grant

1 or salary supplement. A school district is entitled to a grant to
2 carry out the purposes of this section only to the extent the
3 commissioner makes the grant in accordance with this section and
4 only to the extent sufficient state funds are appropriated for
5 those purposes. If state funds are appropriated but are
6 insufficient to fully fund a grant, the commissioner shall reduce
7 the grant paid to each district and the district shall reduce the
8 salary supplement the district pays to each teacher under this
9 section proportionately so that each selected teacher receives the
10 same amount of money.

11 (h) Each district shall, in the manner and at the time
12 prescribed by the commissioner, provide to the commissioner proof
13 acceptable to the commissioner of the appropriate certification of
14 a teacher to whom the district is paying a salary supplement under
15 this section.

16 (i) The commissioner may audit the expenditure of money
17 appropriated for purposes of this section. A district's use of the
18 money appropriated for purposes of this section shall be verified
19 as part of the district audit under Section 44.008.

20 (j) A salary supplement a teacher receives under this
21 section is not considered in determining whether the district is
22 paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section 21.402.

23 (k) The commissioner may adopt any rules necessary to
24 implement this section.

25 (l) The agency shall report to the legislature describing
26 the agency's activities under the pilot project, the effect of the
27 project on the teacher turnover rate and the academic performance

1 level for each school district participating in the project, and
2 the recommendations arising from the project. The agency shall
3 submit an interim report under this subsection not later than
4 January 1, 2009, and a final report not later than January 1, 2011.

5 (m) This section expires January 1, 2011.

6 SECTION 2. Section 21.419, Education Code, as added by this
7 Act, applies beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

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