

By: Giddings

H.B. No. 2657

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a pilot project to lower teacher turnover rates in
3 high-need public school districts.

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

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

7 Sec. 21.419. SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR TEACHERS IN HIGH-NEED
8 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS; PILOT PROJECT. (a) The commissioner
9 shall establish a pilot project in school districts selected by the
10 commissioner to pay salary supplements to teachers who commit to
11 teach in one of the districts for at least three years.

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

14 (1) include a substantial geographical area with a
15 low-income population;

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

18 (3) have high teacher turnover rates.

19 (c) From amounts appropriated to the agency, the
20 commissioner shall award grants to school districts that
21 participate in the program. A grant under this section must be in
22 an amount sufficient to pay the costs to the district of
23 participating in the program, as determined by the commissioner. A
24 determination of the commissioner is final and may not be appealed.

1 (d) A school district may use a grant awarded under
2 Subsection (c) to pay a salary supplement to a teacher who commits
3 to teach in the district for three years beginning with the
4 2007-2008 school year. The salary supplement is payable only at the
5 end of the teacher's three-year commitment to the district. A
6 teacher who does not fulfill the three-year commitment is not
7 entitled to any portion of the salary supplement.

8 (e) A grant a school district receives under this section is
9 in addition to any funding the district receives under Chapter 42.
10 The commissioner shall distribute funds under this section with the
11 Foundation School Program payment to which the district is entitled
12 as soon as practicable after the end of the school year as
13 determined by the commissioner. A district to which Chapter 41
14 applies is entitled to a grant under this section. The commissioner
15 shall determine the timing of the distribution of a grant to a
16 district that does not receive Foundation School Program payments.
17 An open-enrollment charter school is not eligible for a grant under
18 this section.

19 (f) This section does not create a property right to a grant
20 or salary supplement. A school district is entitled to a grant to
21 carry out the purposes of this section only to the extent the
22 commissioner makes the grant in accordance with this section and
23 only to the extent sufficient state funds are appropriated for
24 those purposes. If state funds are appropriated but are
25 insufficient to fully fund a grant, the commissioner shall reduce
26 the grant paid to each district and the district shall reduce the
27 salary supplement the district pays to each teacher under this

1 section proportionately so that each selected teacher receives the
2 same amount of money.

3 (g) Each district shall, in the manner and at the time
4 prescribed by the commissioner, provide to the commissioner proof
5 acceptable to the commissioner of the appropriate certification of
6 a teacher to whom the district is paying a salary supplement under
7 this section.

8 (h) The commissioner may audit the expenditure of money
9 appropriated for purposes of this section. A district's use of the
10 money appropriated for purposes of this section shall be verified
11 as part of the district audit under Section 44.008.

12 (i) A salary supplement a teacher receives under this
13 section is not considered in determining whether the district is
14 paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section 21.402.

15 (j) The commissioner may adopt any rules necessary to
16 implement this section.

17 (k) The agency shall report to the legislature describing
18 the agency's activities under the pilot project, the effect of the
19 project on the teacher turnover rate and the academic performance
20 level for each school district participating in the project, and
21 the recommendations arising from the project. The agency shall
22 submit an interim report under this subsection not later than
23 January 1, 2009, and a final report not later than January 1, 2011.

24 (l) This section expires January 1, 2011.

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

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