

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 1644

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 1644:

By: Patrick

C.S.S.B. No. 1644

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the service of Texas state teachers of the year and other outstanding educators as advisors to regional and state education agencies.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection A, Chapter 7, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 7.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 7.007. (a) The Texas Advisory Committee of Educators is established to advise the agency, the board, and the State Board for Educator Certification on matters relating to state education policy and rulemaking. The commissioner, board, or State Board for Educator Certification may submit a specific issue to the committee for its consideration and advice.

(b) The advisory committee is composed of educators who are recognized for excellence in their profession. The number of educators on the advisory committee is determined by the commissioner, but may not be less than five. Each teacher who is selected as a state teacher of the year under a program adopted by the agency serves as a member of the committee. The commissioner shall appoint the remaining members of the committee. The commissioner may appoint classroom teachers who have received state or national recognition or are otherwise recognized for excellence in education. The commissioner may request nominations from entities that award teaching excellence, regional education

1 service centers, or other entities selected by the commissioner.

2 (c) A state teacher of the year serving on the advisory
3 committee serves a two-year term beginning on the first day of the
4 teacher's term as state teacher of the year. The remaining members
5 serve staggered two-year terms concurrent with the state teachers
6 of the year serving on the committee.

7 (c-1) The commissioner shall designate the terms of the
8 initial members of the advisory committee, including teachers of
9 the year, in a manner that results in the terms of subsequent
10 members being staggered so that approximately one-half of the terms
11 expire each year. This subsection expires September 1, 2010.

12 (d) The commissioner shall designate a member of the
13 advisory committee to serve as the presiding officer. The advisory
14 committee shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.

15 (e) A member of the advisory committee is not entitled to
16 compensation for service on the committee but is entitled to
17 reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in
18 performing committee duties.

19 (f) Staff members of the agency shall provide
20 administrative support for the committee.

21 SECTION 2. Section 61.076, Education Code, is amended by
22 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

23 (c-1) A teacher who is selected as the state teacher of the
24 year under a program adopted by the Texas Education Agency is
25 entitled to serve as a nonvoting member of the council. A state
26 teacher of the year serving on the council as provided by this
27 subsection serves a two-year term beginning on the first day of the

1 teacher's term as state teacher of the year.

2 SECTION 3. Section 8.003(b), Education Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (b) The commissioner shall adopt rules to provide for the
5 local selection, appointment, and continuity of membership of
6 regional education service center boards of directors. The rules
7 must provide that a teacher who is selected as a regional teacher of
8 the year under a program adopted by the agency is entitled to serve
9 as a nonvoting member of the board of directors for that region.

10 SECTION 4. Section 22.003, Education Code, is amended by
11 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

12 (a-1) A school district that employs a person who is serving
13 on a committee, council, or board under Sections 7.007, 8.003(b),
14 or 61.076(c-1) shall permit the employee to attend the meetings of
15 the committee, council, or board. The district may not require an
16 employee to use state minimum personal leave granted under this
17 section for that purpose, but may require the employee to use
18 personal leave provided beyond the state minimum if the employee
19 has such leave available.

20 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.