

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 181

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a program to provide financial incentives to students
3 who agree to teach bilingual education, English as a second
4 language, or Spanish in certain public schools.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
7 Subchapter FF to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER FF. FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO PREPARE TEACHERS IN
9 BILINGUAL EDUCATION, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, AND SPANISH

10 Sec. 61.9771. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. The board shall
11 establish a program to provide financial incentives such as tuition
12 assistance or student loan repayment to:

13 (1) assist persons to obtain certification to teach
14 bilingual education, English as a second language, or Spanish in a
15 public elementary or secondary school in this state; and

16 (2) facilitate the employment of those persons by a
17 public elementary or secondary school in this state that has a
18 shortage of teachers certified to teach in those fields.

19 Sec. 61.9772. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive
20 financial incentives under this subchapter, a person must:

21 (1) apply to the board in the form and manner
22 prescribed by board rule;

23 (2) have completed at least 60 semester credit hours
24 of coursework toward an associate's degree at a public junior

1 college or a junior college accredited by a recognized accrediting
2 agency;

3 (3) be admitted into an educator preparation program
4 at an institution of higher education that prepares students for
5 certification to teach bilingual education, English as a second
6 language, or Spanish;

7 (4) enter into an agreement with the board as provided
8 by Section 61.9773; and

9 (5) satisfy any other criteria jointly prescribed by
10 the board and the State Board for Educator Certification.

11 Sec. 61.9773. AGREEMENT. To qualify for financial
12 incentives under this subchapter, a person must enter into a
13 written agreement with the board as provided by this section. The
14 agreement must require the person to:

15 (1) obtain, within the period prescribed by board
16 rule, certification to teach bilingual education, English as a
17 second language, or Spanish in a public elementary or secondary
18 school in this state;

19 (2) accept, during the first school year that begins
20 after the date the person becomes certified, an offer of full-time
21 employment to teach bilingual education, English as a second
22 language, or Spanish in a public elementary or secondary school in
23 this state that has a shortage of teachers certified to teach in one
24 or more of those fields; and

25 (3) teach bilingual education, English as a second
26 language, or Spanish at that school for at least two school years.

27 Sec. 61.9774. FINANCIAL INCENTIVES. The board shall award

1 financial incentives such as tuition assistance or student loan
2 repayment to each participant in the program to assist with the cost
3 of payment of mandatory tuition and fees for courses required to
4 obtain certification to teach bilingual education, English as a
5 second language, or Spanish.

6 Sec. 61.9775. REIMBURSEMENT; EXCEPTIONS. (a) A program
7 participant who fails to meet the requirements of Section 61.9773
8 shall reimburse the board for the amount of any assistance received
9 by the participant under this subchapter.

10 (b) The board by rule shall establish exceptions to the
11 reimbursement requirement under this section for participants who
12 are unable to meet the requirements of Section 61.9773 as a result
13 of an unusual hardship.

14 Sec. 61.9776. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to
15 money appropriated by the legislature, the board may solicit and
16 accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of this
17 subchapter.

18 Sec. 61.9777. RULES. The board shall adopt rules necessary
19 for the administration of this subchapter, including a rule that
20 sets the maximum amount of financial assistance that a person may
21 receive under this subchapter in one year.

22 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
23 shall adopt rules for the administration of Subchapter FF, Chapter
24 61, Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable
25 after this Act takes effect. For that purpose, the coordinating
26 board may adopt the initial rules in the manner provided by law for
27 emergency rules.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.