

By: Farias

H.B. No. 1585

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain eligibility requirements of the Teach for Texas Loan Repayment Assistance Program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 56.353, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) Teach for Texas repayment assistance is available only to a person who applies for the assistance and who:

(1) is certified in a teaching field identified by the commissioner of education as experiencing a critical shortage of teachers in this state in the year in which the person receives the assistance and has for at least one year taught full-time at, and is currently teaching full-time at, the preschool, primary, or secondary level in a public school in this state in that teaching field; ~~or~~

(2) is a certified educator who has for at least one year taught full-time at, and is currently teaching full-time at, the preschool, primary, or secondary level in a public school in this state at which it is difficult to attract or retain educators, ~~as [in a community]~~ identified by the commissioner of education for ~~[as experiencing a critical shortage of teachers in]~~ the year in which the person receives the assistance; or

(3) is a certified educator who has for at least one

1 year taught full-time at, and is currently teaching full-time at,  
2 the preschool, primary, or secondary level in a public school in  
3 this state in which more than 50 percent of the students enrolled  
4 are economically disadvantaged, as identified by the commissioner  
5 of education for the year in which the person receives the  
6 assistance.

7 (a-1) The commissioner of education each year shall  
8 identify:

9 (1) for purposes of Subsections (a)(2) and (3), public  
10 schools in this state at which it is difficult to attract or retain  
11 educators; and

12 (2) for purposes of Subsection (a)(3), public schools  
13 in this state in which more than 50 percent of the students enrolled  
14 are economically disadvantaged.

15 (b) The coordinating board in awarding repayment assistance  
16 shall give priority to applicants who are described by Subsection  
17 (a)(2) or (3) or who demonstrate financial need.

18 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
19 56.353, Education Code, applies only to eligibility for loan  
20 repayment assistance under Subchapter O, Chapter 56, Education  
21 Code, on the basis of an application submitted on or after September  
22 1, 2011. Eligibility on the basis of an application submitted  
23 before September 1, 2011, is covered by the law in effect at the  
24 time the application was submitted, and the former law is continued  
25 in effect for that purpose.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.