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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY: Robert R. Denny

1 Amend C.S.H.B. No. 5 (house committee printing) by adding the  
2 following appropriately numbered SECTIONS to the bill and  
3 renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

4 SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by  
5 adding Subchapter II to read as follows:

6 SUBCHAPTER II. FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO PREPARE TEACHERS IN  
7 BILINGUAL EDUCATION, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, AND SPANISH

8 Sec. 61.9821. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. The board shall  
9 establish a program to provide financial incentives such as tuition  
10 assistance or student loan repayment to:

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

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

17 Sec. 61.9822. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive  
18 financial incentives under this subchapter, a person must:

19 (1) apply to the board in the form and manner  
20 prescribed by board rule;

21 (2) have completed at least 60 semester credit hours  
22 of course work toward an associate's degree at a public junior  
23 college or a junior college accredited by a recognized accrediting  
24 agency;

25 (3) be admitted into an educator preparation program  
26 at an institution of higher education or at a private or independent  
27 institution of higher education that prepares students for  
28 certification to teach bilingual education, English as a second  
29 language, or Spanish;

1           (4) enter into an agreement with the board as provided  
2 by Section 61.9823; and

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

5           Sec. 61.9823. AGREEMENT. To qualify for financial  
6 incentives under this subchapter, a person must enter into a  
7 written agreement with the board as provided by this section. The  
8 agreement must require the person to:

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

13           (2) accept, during the first school year that begins  
14 after the date the person becomes certified as provided by  
15 Subdivision (1), an offer of full-time employment to teach  
16 bilingual education, English as a second language, or Spanish in a  
17 public elementary or secondary school in this state that has a  
18 shortage of teachers certified to teach in one or more of those  
19 fields; and

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

22           Sec. 61.9824. FINANCIAL INCENTIVES. The board shall award  
23 financial incentives such as tuition assistance or student loan  
24 repayment to each participant in the program to assist with the cost  
25 of payment of mandatory tuition and fees for courses required to  
26 obtain certification to teach bilingual education, English as a  
27 second language, or Spanish.

28           Sec. 61.9825. REIMBURSEMENT; EXCEPTIONS. (a) A program  
29 participant who fails to meet the requirements of Section 61.9823  
30 shall reimburse the board for the amount of any assistance received  
31 by the participant under this subchapter.

1           (b) The board by rule shall establish exceptions to the  
2 reimbursement requirement under this section for participants who  
3 are unable to meet the requirements of Section 61.9823 as a result  
4 of an unusual hardship.

5           Sec. 61.9826. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to  
6 money appropriated by the legislature, the board may solicit and  
7 accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of this  
8 subchapter.

9           Sec. 61.9827. RULES. The board shall adopt rules necessary  
10 for the administration of this subchapter, including a rule that  
11 sets the maximum amount of financial assistance that a person may  
12 receive under this subchapter in one year.

13           SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
14 shall adopt rules for the administration of Subchapter II, Chapter  
15 61, Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable  
16 after this Act takes effect. For that purpose, the coordinating  
17 board may adopt the initial rules in the manner provided by law for  
18 emergency rules.

