

By: Patrick, Pitts, Allen, Branch, Aycok,
et al.

H.B. No. 1752

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating the Texas Teacher Residency Program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter Q to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Q. TEXAS TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Sec. 21.801. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. (a) Not later than March 1, 2014, the commissioner of higher education shall, through a competitive selection process, establish a Texas Teacher Residency Program at a public institution of higher education that has developed a commitment to investing in teacher education.

(b) The public institution of higher education shall form a partnership with an area school district or open-enrollment charter school to provide employment to residents in the program.

(c) The program must be designed to:

(1) award teaching residents participating in the program a master's degree; and

(2) lead to certification under Subchapter B for participating teaching residents who are not already certified teachers.

(d) The public institution of higher education shall:

(1) reward faculty instructing in the teacher residency program;

(2) identify faculty who can prepare teachers to

1 impact student achievement in high-need schools;

2 (3) provide institutional support of faculty who work
3 with the teacher residency program by providing time to teach the
4 courses and valuing the faculty's contributions with rewards in the
5 university tenure process; and

6 (4) develop and implement a program that acknowledges
7 and elevates the significance and professional nature of teaching
8 at the primary and secondary levels.

9 Sec. 21.802. PROGRAM COMPONENTS. The teacher residency
10 program shall include:

11 (1) competitive admission requirements with multiple
12 criteria;

13 (2) integration of pedagogy and classroom practice;

14 (3) rigorous master's level course work, while
15 undertaking a guided apprenticeship at the partner area school
16 district or open-enrollment charter school;

17 (4) a team mentorship approach to expose teaching
18 residents to a variety of teaching methods, philosophies, and
19 classroom environments;

20 (5) clear criteria for the selection of mentor
21 teachers based on measures of teacher effectiveness and the
22 appropriate subject area knowledge;

23 (6) measures of appropriate progress through the
24 program;

25 (7) the collaboration with one or more regional
26 education service centers or local nonprofit education
27 organizations to provide professional development or other

- 1 structured learning experiences for teaching residents;
2 (8) a livable stipend for teaching residents;
3 (9) a post-completion commitment by teaching
4 residents to serve four years at schools that are difficult to
5 staff;
6 (10) job placement assistance for teaching residents;
7 (11) support for teaching residents for not less than
8 one year following the resident's completion of the program through
9 the provision of mentoring, professional development, and
10 networking opportunities;
11 (12) demonstration of the integral role and
12 responsibilities of the partner area school district or
13 open-enrollment charter school in fulfilling the purpose of the
14 program; and
15 (13) monetary or in-kind contributions provided by the
16 public institution of higher education, partner area school
17 district, or open-enrollment charter school to demonstrate that the
18 program may be sustained in the absence of grant funds or state
19 appropriations.

20 Sec. 21.803. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to be
21 admitted and hired as a teaching resident under the program, an
22 individual must:

23 (1) have received the individual's initial teaching
24 certificate not more than two years before applying for a residency
25 and must have less than 18 months of full-time equivalency teaching
26 experience as a certified teacher; or

27 (2) hold a bachelor's degree and:

1 (A) be a mid-career professional from outside the
2 field of education, and have strong content knowledge or a record of
3 achievement; or

4 (B) be a noncertified educator such as a
5 substitute teacher or teaching assistant.

6 Sec. 21.804. SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS. The teaching
7 residency program shall establish criteria for selection of
8 individuals to participate in the program. The selection criteria
9 must include:

10 (1) a demonstration of comprehensive subject area
11 knowledge or a record of accomplishment in the field or subject area
12 to be taught;

13 (2) strong verbal and written communication skills,
14 which may be demonstrated by performance on appropriate tests; and

15 (3) attributes linked to effective teaching, which may
16 be determined by interviews or performance assessments.

17 Sec. 21.805. RULES. The commissioner of higher education
18 shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this subchapter.

19 Sec. 21.806. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT CERTAIN FUNDS. (a) The
20 commissioner of higher education may solicit and accept gifts,
21 grants, and donations from public and private entities to use for
22 the purposes of this subchapter.

23 (b) The commissioner of higher education, applicable
24 institutions of higher education, partner area school districts,
25 and open-enrollment charter schools may use state funds for the
26 purpose of the program, other than appropriations made specifically
27 for that purpose.

1 (c) The Texas Teacher Residency Program under this
2 subchapter may be established and maintained only if sufficient
3 funds are available under this section for that purpose.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.