

By: Aycock

H.B. No. 1843

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1843:

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C.S.H.B. No. 1843

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing training academies for public school teachers who provide reading instruction to students in prekindergarten through grade three.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.4552 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.4552. TEACHER LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMIES. (a) The commissioner shall develop and make available literacy achievement academies for teachers who provide instruction to students at the prekindergarten, kindergarten, or first, second, or third grade level.

(b) A literacy achievement academy developed under this section must include training in effective and systematic instructional practices in reading, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and research-based practices to address the needs of students with reading disorders.

(c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selecting teachers who may attend a literacy achievement academy. In adopting selection criteria under this subsection, the commissioner shall:

(1) include teachers, including special education teachers, who instruct students with reading disorders; and

(2) require granting a priority to teachers employed

1 by school districts in which 50 percent or more of the students
2 enrolled are educationally disadvantaged.

3 (d) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a teacher who
4 attends a literacy achievement academy is entitled to receive a
5 stipend in the amount determined by the commissioner. A stipend
6 received under this subsection is not considered in determining
7 whether a district is paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary
8 under Section [21.402](#).

9 (e) On request of the commissioner, regional education
10 service centers shall assist the commissioner and agency with
11 training and other activities relating to the development and
12 operation of literacy achievement academies.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.