

1-1 By: Kolkhorst S.B. No. 925
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 3, 2015; March 9, 2015, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 20, 2015,
1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; April 20, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 925 By: Kolkhorst

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to providing training academies for public school teachers
1-23 who provide reading instruction to students in kindergarten through
1-24 grade five.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
1-27 amended by adding Section 21.4552 to read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 21.4552. TEACHER LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMIES.

1-29 (a) The commissioner shall develop and make available literacy
1-30 achievement academies for teachers who provide:

1-31 (1) reading instruction to students at the
1-32 kindergarten or first, second, or third grade level; and

1-33 (2) reading comprehension instruction to students at
1-34 the fourth or fifth grade level.

1-35 (b) A literacy achievement academy developed under this
1-36 section:

1-37 (1) must include training in:

1-38 (A) effective and systematic instructional
1-39 practices in reading, including phonemic awareness, phonics,
1-40 fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; and

1-41 (B) the use of empirically validated
1-42 instructional methods that are appropriate for struggling readers;
1-43 and

1-44 (2) may include training in effective instructional
1-45 practices in writing.

1-46 (c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selecting
1-47 teachers who may attend a literacy achievement academy. In
1-48 adopting selection criteria under this subsection, the
1-49 commissioner shall require granting a priority to teachers employed
1-50 by a school district at a campus at which 50 percent or more of the
1-51 students enrolled are educationally disadvantaged.

1-52 (d) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a teacher who
1-53 attends a literacy achievement academy is entitled to receive a
1-54 stipend in the amount determined by the commissioner. A stipend
1-55 received under this subsection is not considered in determining
1-56 whether a school district is paying the teacher the minimum monthly
1-57 salary under Section 21.402.

1-58 (e) On request of the commissioner, regional education
1-59 service centers shall assist the commissioner and agency with
1-60 training and other activities relating to the development and

2-1 operation of literacy achievement academies.

2-2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-6 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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