

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 972

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to training academies for public school teachers who
3 provide reading comprehension instruction to students in grades
4 four and five.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 21.4554 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 21.4554. READING-TO-LEARN ACADEMIES. (a) The
9 commissioner shall develop and make available reading-to-learn
10 academies for teachers who provide reading comprehension
11 instruction to students at the fourth or fifth grade level.

12 (b) A reading-to-learn academy developed under this section
13 must:

14 (1) include effective instructional practices that
15 promote student development of reading comprehension and
16 inferential and critical thinking; and

17 (2) provide participating teachers with access to the
18 academy training materials through the Internet after the teachers
19 attend the academy.

20 (c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selecting
21 teachers who may attend a reading-to-learn academy.

22 (d) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a teacher who
23 attends a reading-to-learn academy is entitled to receive a stipend
24 in the amount determined by the commissioner to cover expenses of

1 attending the academy. A stipend received under this subsection is
2 not considered in determining whether a district is paying the
3 teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section [21.402](#).

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