

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.S.B. 19
By: Nelson
Appropriations
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Interested parties call for an appropriation of money from the economic stabilization fund to decrease costs for participants in the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program. C.S.S.B. 19 seeks to make this appropriation.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.S.B. 19 appropriates \$212.7 million from the economic stabilization fund to the retired school employees group insurance fund for use by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas to decrease the costs for the 2018 and 2019 plan years for participants in the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program. The bill limits the use of funds so appropriated to decreasing the premiums and deductibles that would otherwise be paid during the 2018 and 2019 plan years by participants in the group insurance program and reducing costs for an enrolled adult child with a mental disability or a physical incapacity during those plan years. The bill takes effect only if it receives the vote necessary for an appropriation of money from the economic stabilization fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Except as otherwise provided, on passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.

COMPARISON OF SENATE ENGROSSED AND SUBSTITUTE

While C.S.S.B. 19 may differ from the engrossed in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following comparison is organized and formatted in a manner that indicates the substantial differences between the engrossed and committee substitute versions of the bill.

SENATE ENGROSSED

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding

No equivalent provision.

Section 21.417 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.417. CLASSROOM TEACHER STATE CAREER BONUS. (a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for purposes of this section, the agency shall provide an annual bonus to each classroom teacher with at least six years of teaching experience at the beginning of the school year during which the bonus is provided. (b) The amount of the bonus provided to each classroom teacher during any school year shall be established by appropriation, and the appropriation may provide for different bonus amounts during a school year based on the number of years of teaching experience. (c) A bonus provided to a classroom teacher under this section is not considered in determining whether a school district is paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section 21.402. (d) The agency shall provide a bonus under this section only to a person employed as a classroom teacher at the time the bonus is paid.

SECTION 2. (a) The amount of \$193,000,000 of the unencumbered appropriations from the general revenue fund for the state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2019, made by S.B. 1, Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 (the General Appropriations Act), to the Health and Human Services Commission is transferred to the Texas Education Agency to be used by the agency to provide the following bonuses to public school classroom teachers under Section 21.417, Education Code, as added by this Act: (1) a bonus of \$600 to be paid in September 2018 for each classroom teacher with at least 6 but less than 11 years of teaching experience at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year; and (2) a bonus of \$1,000 to be paid in September 2018 for each classroom teacher with at least 11 years of teaching experience at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. (b) The Health and Human Services Commission shall identify the strategies and objectives out of which the transfer under Subsection (a) of this section is to be made.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 3. (a) The amount of

SECTION 1. The amount of \$212.7 million

\$212,000,000 of the unencumbered appropriations from the general revenue fund for the state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2019, made by S.B. 1, Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 (the General Appropriations Act), to the Health and Human Services Commission is transferred to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and may be used by the retirement system during that state fiscal biennium to provide support to participants in the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program authorized by Chapter 1575, Insurance Code. The Health and Human Services Commission shall identify the strategies and objectives out of which the transfer is to be made.

(b) The Teacher Retirement System of Texas may use the money transferred under Subsection (a) of this section to:

(1) reduce costs for participants, including premiums, deductibles, and prescription drugs, during the 2018 and 2019 plan years; and

(2) reduce the premium and maximum out-of-pocket cost for an enrolled adult child with a mental disability or a physical incapacity during the 2018 and 2019 plan years.

(c) The Teacher Retirement System of Texas shall determine the most efficient allocation of the money transferred under Subsection (a) of this section to achieve the maximum benefit for participants in the program.

SECTION 4. Section 21.417, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

SECTION 5.

This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.

If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.

is appropriated from the economic stabilization fund to the retired school employees group insurance fund established under Section 1575.301, Insurance Code, for use by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas to decrease the costs for the 2018 and 2019 plan years for participants in the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program authorized by Chapter 1575, Insurance Code.

SECTION 2. The Teacher Retirement System of Texas may use funds appropriated by this Act only to:

(1) decrease the premiums and deductibles that would otherwise be paid during the 2018 and 2019 plan years by participants in the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program authorized by Chapter 1575, Insurance Code; and

(2) reduce costs for an enrolled adult child with a mental disability or a physical incapacity during the 2018 and 2019 plan years.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 3. (a) Subject to Subsection (b) of this section:

(1) this Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution; and

(2) if this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.

(b) This Act takes effect only if it receives a vote of two-thirds of the members present in each house of the legislature, as provided by Section 49-g(m), Article III, Texas Constitution.