

By: Allen

H.B. No. 353

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the salary paid to classroom teachers employed by public schools; making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.402, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c-2), (c-3), (c-4), and (d) and amending Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(c-2) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), for the 2017-2018 school year, a classroom teacher is entitled to a monthly salary that is at least equal to the sum of:

(1) the monthly salary the teacher would have received for the 2017-2018 school year under the district's salary schedule for the 2016-2017 school year, if that schedule had been in effect for the 2017-2018 school year, including any local supplement and any money representing a career ladder supplement the teacher would have received in the 2017-2018 school year; and

(2) the amount determined by the commissioner under Subsection (c-3), not to exceed \$100.

(c-3) The commissioner, in collaboration with representatives from school districts and using publicly available data, shall determine a cost-of-living adjustment for classroom teacher salaries based on any change in the average cost of living since the most recent state-funded pay raise for classroom teachers.

1 (c-4) Subsections (c-2), (c-3), and this subsection expire
2 September 1, 2018.

3 (d) A classroom teacher employed by a school district in the
4 2017-2018 school year is, as long as the teacher is employed by the
5 same district, entitled to a salary that is at least equal to the
6 salary the teacher received for the 2017-2018 school year.

7 (g) The commissioner may adopt rules to govern the
8 application of this section, including rules that:

9 (1) require the payment of a minimum salary under this
10 section to a person employed in more than one capacity for which a
11 minimum salary is provided and whose combined employment in those
12 capacities constitutes full-time employment; and

13 (2) specify the credentials a person must hold to be
14 considered a [~~speech pathologist or~~] school nurse under this
15 section.

16 SECTION 2. Section 42.2513(a), Education Code, is amended
17 to read as follows:

18 (a) A school district, including a school district that is
19 otherwise ineligible for state aid under this chapter, is entitled
20 to state aid in an amount equal to the sum of:

21 (1) the product of \$500 multiplied by the number of
22 full-time district employees, other than administrators or
23 employees subject to the minimum salary schedule under Section
24 21.402; [~~and~~]

25 (2) the product of the annual raise provided as a
26 result of Section 21.402(c-2), as added by __.B. ____, Acts of the
27 85th Legislature, 1st Called Session, 2017, multiplied by the

1 number of classroom teachers employed by the district; and

2 (3) the product of \$250 multiplied by the number of
3 part-time district employees, other than administrators.

4 SECTION 3. The amount of \$1 billion is appropriated from the
5 economic stabilization fund to the foundation school fund for
6 distribution by the commissioner of education during the state
7 fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2017, to school districts to
8 provide classroom teacher salary increases as provided by Section
9 42.2513, Education Code, as amended by this Act.

10 SECTION 4. Section 21.402(c-1), Education Code, is
11 repealed.

12 SECTION 5. (a) Subject to Subsection (b) of this section:

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

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

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