

By: Nelson, et al.

S.B. No. 19

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to bonuses for public school classroom teachers and state assistance for the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program.

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

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

1 paid.

2 SECTION 2. (a) The amount of \$193,000,000 of the
3 unencumbered appropriations from the general revenue fund for the
4 state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2019, made by S.B. 1, Acts
5 of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 (the General
6 Appropriations Act), to the Health and Human Services Commission is
7 transferred to the Texas Education Agency to be used by the agency
8 to provide the following bonuses to public school classroom
9 teachers under Section 21.417, Education Code, as added by this
10 Act:

11 (1) a bonus of \$600 to be paid in September 2018 for
12 each classroom teacher with at least 6 but less than 11 years of
13 teaching experience at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year;
14 and

15 (2) a bonus of \$1,000 to be paid in September 2018 for
16 each classroom teacher with at least 11 years of teaching
17 experience at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

18 (b) The Health and Human Services Commission shall identify
19 the strategies and objectives out of which the transfer under
20 Subsection (a) of this section is to be made.

21 SECTION 3. (a) The amount of \$212,000,000 of the
22 unencumbered appropriations from the general revenue fund for the
23 state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2019, made by S.B. 1, Acts
24 of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 (the General
25 Appropriations Act), to the Health and Human Services Commission is
26 transferred to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and may be
27 used by the retirement system during that state fiscal biennium to

1 provide support to participants in the Texas Public School
2 Employees Group Insurance Program authorized by Chapter 1575,
3 Insurance Code. The Health and Human Services Commission shall
4 identify the strategies and objectives out of which the transfer is
5 to be made.

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

8 (1) reduce costs for participants, including
9 premiums, deductibles, and prescription drugs, during the 2018 and
10 2019 plan years; and

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

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

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

20 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
25 legislative session.