

By: Uresti

S.B. No. 119

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to bonuses for public school classroom teachers and state
3 assistance for the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance
4 Program; making an appropriation.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) The amount of \$193 million of the
7 unencumbered appropriations from the general revenue fund for the
8 state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2019, made by Chapter 605
9 (S.B. 1), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 (the
10 General Appropriations Act), to the Health and Human Services
11 Commission is transferred to the Texas Education Agency to be used
12 by the agency to provide the following bonuses to public school
13 classroom teachers:

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

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

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

24 (c) A bonus provided to a public school classroom teacher in

1 accordance with Subsection (a) of this section is not considered in
2 determining whether a school district is paying the teacher the
3 minimum monthly salary under Section 21.402, Education Code.

4 (d) The Texas Education Agency shall provide a bonus under
5 this section only to a person employed as a public school classroom
6 teacher at the time the bonus is paid.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The amount of \$212.7 million is appropriated
8 from the economic stabilization fund to the Teacher Retirement
9 System of Texas for use as provided by this section.

10 (b) The amount of \$212 million of the unencumbered
11 appropriations from the general revenue fund for the state fiscal
12 biennium ending August 31, 2019, made by Chapter 605 (S.B. 1), Acts
13 of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 (the General
14 Appropriations Act), to the Health and Human Services Commission is
15 transferred to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas for use as
16 provided by this section.

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

20 (d) The Teacher Retirement System of Texas may use the money
21 appropriated under Subsection (a) of this section and transferred
22 under Subsection (b) of this section to:

23 (1) reduce costs, including premiums, deductibles,
24 and prescription drug copayments, for participants in the Texas
25 Public School Employees Group Insurance Program authorized by
26 Chapter 1575, Insurance Code, during the 2018 and 2019 plan years;
27 and

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

4 (e) The Teacher Retirement System of Texas shall determine
5 the most efficient allocation of the money appropriated under
6 Subsection (a) of this section and transferred under Subsection (b)
7 of this section to achieve the maximum benefit for participants in
8 the program.

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

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

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

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