

By: Nelson, et al.

S.B. No. 19

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to bonuses and salaries 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 Sections 21.417 and 21.418 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 Sec. 21.418. CLASSROOM TEACHER SALARY INCREASES. (a) From
3 state funding designated specifically for purposes of this section,
4 including a separate appropriation in the General Appropriations
5 Act or a designation of revenue provided by the Texas Constitution,
6 a school district shall spend an amount equal to the product of
7 \$1,000 multiplied by the number of classroom teachers employed by
8 the district to increase salaries for classroom teachers in a
9 manner determined by the board of trustees to be beneficial to the
10 district.

11 (b) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary to implement
12 this section, provided that the rules do not restrict the manner in
13 which the amount described by Subsection (a) is used by a school
14 district to increase salaries for classroom teachers.

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

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

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

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

7 SECTION 3. (a) The amount of \$212,000,000 of the
8 unencumbered appropriations from the general revenue fund for the
9 state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2019, made by S.B. 1, Acts
10 of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 (the General
11 Appropriations Act), to the Health and Human Services Commission is
12 transferred to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and may be
13 used by the retirement system during that state fiscal biennium to
14 provide support to participants in the Texas Public School
15 Employees Group Insurance Program authorized by Chapter 1575,
16 Insurance Code. The Health and Human Services Commission shall
17 identify the strategies and objectives out of which the transfer is
18 to be made.

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

21 (1) reduce costs for participants, including
22 premiums, deductibles, and prescription drugs, during the 2018 and
23 2019 plan years; and

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

27 (c) The Teacher Retirement System of Texas shall determine

1 the most efficient allocation of the money transferred under
2 Subsection (a) of this section to achieve the maximum benefit for
3 participants in the program.

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

6 (b) Section 21.418, Education Code, as added by this Act,
7 applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

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