

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 3  
By: Bivins  
Education  
4/23/1999  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **DIGEST**

Currently, there are approximately 7,000 certified reading specialists in Texas, but of that number, over 40 percent are not working in public schools. While the number of reading proficient students is improving, the state has not reached the goal of having all students reading at grade level. C.S.S.B. 3 would establish conditions regarding master reading teacher certification and allotments.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, C.S.S.B. 3 establishes conditions regarding master reading teacher certification and allotments.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is granted to the commissioner of education in SECTION 1 (Sections 21.410(f) and (m), Education Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 21I, Education Code, by adding Section 21.410, as follows:

Sec. 21.410. MASTER READING TEACHER GRANT PROGRAM. (a) Requires the commissioner of education (commissioner) to establish a master reading teacher grant program.

(b) Requires the commissioner to make grants from appropriated funds to school districts (district) and open-enrollment charter schools (school) to pay stipends to selected certified master reading teachers who teach at high-need campuses.

(c) Requires the commissioner, using certain criteria, to identify each high-need campus. Requires the commissioner to also use the criteria to rank campuses in order of greatest need.

(d) Authorizes a district or school to apply to the commissioner for grants for each identified high-need campus to be used to pay stipends to certified master reading teachers. Provides that each grant is in the amount of \$5,000. Sets forth conditions by which the commissioner shall approve an application from a district or school.

(e) Provides that a stipend under Subsection (d)(2) is in the amount of \$5,000, unless reduced under Subsection (g) or (i).

(f) Requires the commissioner to adopt rules for the distribution of grants to districts and schools in years following the initial grant. Sets forth conditions by which a school or district need not reapply for a grant for two consecutive school years following the year of the initial grant.

(g) Requires the commissioner to reduce payments to a district or school proportionately to the extent that the teacher does not meet the requirements for the entire school year. Establishes conditions regarding the selection by the board of trustees of the district (board) of certified master reading teachers that shall receive a stipend in the event that there are more certified teachers than there are stipends. Provides that the board's decision is final and may not be appealed. Prohibits the district or school from apportioning among teachers a stipend paid for with a grant. Authorizes a school or district to use local money to pay additional stipends in amounts determined by the district or school.

(h) Sets forth provisions regarding the distribution of the payment of stipends to school and districts by the commissioner.

(i) Establishes that this section does not create a property right to a grant or stipend. Entitles a district or school to a grant only to the extent the commissioner makes the grant. Requires the commissioner to reduce the grant paid to each district or school if the appropriated funds are insufficient to fully fund the grant, and each district or school shall reduce the stipend to each teacher, so that each teacher receives the same amount of money.

(j) Establishes that the commissioner's decision regarding the amount of money each district or school receives is the decision of the commissioner and is final and may not be appealed. Requires the district or school to provide necessary proof to the commissioner of the master reading teacher certification of the teacher receiving the stipend.

(k) Authorizes the commissioner to audit the expenditure of appropriated money. Requires a district's use of the appropriated money to be verified as part of the district audit.

(l) Provides that the stipend awarded to a teacher is not to be considered in determining whether the district is paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary.

(m) Authorizes the commissioner to adopt other rules as necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 21B, Education Code, by adding Section 21.0481, as follows:

Sec. 21.0481. MASTER READING TEACHER CERTIFICATION. Requires the State Board for Educator Certification (board) to issue a master reading teacher certificate to each eligible person. Sets forth requirements to be eligible for a master reading teacher certificate.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 822.201(b), Education Code, to redefine "salary and wages."

SECTION 4. Requires the State Board for Education Certification to propose rules establishing requirements and prescribing an examination for master reading teacher certification, not later than January 1, 2000.

SECTION 5. Emergency clause.

Effective date: upon passage.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

#### **SECTION 1.**

Amends Section 21.410, Education Code, to establish conditions regarding the creation of and requirements for a master reading teacher grant program. Redesignated from proposed SECTION 2 and deletes proposed text regarding master reading teacher allotments.

#### **SECTION 2.**

Amends Section 21.0481, Education Code, to establish certain requirements to be eligible for a master reading teacher certification. Redesignated from proposed SECTION 1.

#### **SECTION 4.**

Requires the State Board for Education Certification to propose rules establishing requirements and prescribing an examination for master reading teacher certification, not later than January 1, 2000. Deletes proposed SECTION 4.