

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 856
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Education
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas ranks 38th in the nation among teacher salaries. Increasing the salaries of classroom teachers would make those positions more attractive and improve the state's ability to attract and retain good teachers. S.B. 856 would establish additional funding to school districts for teacher salaries.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 856 establishes additional funding to school districts for teacher salaries.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is granted to the commissioner of education in SECTION 1 (Section 21.4031(e), Education Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 21I, Education Code, by adding Section 21.4031, as follows:

Sec. 21.4031. SALARY SUPPLEMENT. Entitles each school district, from funds appropriated for the purpose, to an annual allotment equal to \$6,000 for each full-time equivalent classroom teacher. Entitles each full-time classroom teacher to a salary supplement from the allotment in the amount of \$5,500. Entitles a part-time classroom teacher a salary supplement proportionate to the percentage of full-time worked by the teacher. Authorizes the balance of the district's annual allotment to be used by the district to pay certain additional salary allotments. Provides that a salary supplement is not considered in determining whether the district is paying a teacher the minimum monthly salary. Authorizes the commissioner of education to adopt rules as necessary.

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the 1999-2000 school year.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.