

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
84R7741 JSL-D

S.B. 1303
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Education
3/19/2015
As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

S.B. 1303 increases full-time teachers' salaries by \$400 a month and compels the state to pay the school districts for this pay raise. This would result in a \$4,000 pay increase on an annual basis.

Teachers in the Texas school system need more support. According to an annual survey by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) for 2012-2013, Texas schools lost over 10,000 teachers since the previous school year. One of the primary concerns of teachers is their salary. Under current statute, a full-time teacher's minimum monthly salary is based on the employee's level of experience in conjunction with additional salary factors with monetary values assigned in Section 21.402 (Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff) of Subchapter I of the Texas Education Code.

While the starting salary rate for teachers in Texas is similar to that of other states, teachers in Texas are making nearly \$8,000 less than the national average. This small change of increasing teachers' salaries will result in significant improvements in quality of life for teachers all over the state and will support much needed hiring incentives.

As proposed, S.B. 1303 amends current law relating to the salary paid to classroom teachers employed by public schools.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority previously granted to the commissioner of education is modified in SECTION 1 (Section 21.402, Education Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 21.402, Education Code, by amending Subsection (g) and adding Subsections (c-2), (c-3), and (d), as follows:

(c-2) Entitles a classroom teacher, notwithstanding Subsection (a) (requiring a school district to pay each classroom teacher, full-time librarian, full-time school counselor certified under Subchapter B, or full-time school nurse not less than a certain amount), for the 2015-2016 school year, to a monthly salary that is at least equal to the sum of:

(1) the monthly salary the teacher would have received for the 2015-2016 school year under the district's salary schedule for the 2014-2015 school year, if that schedule had been in effect for the 2015-2016 school year, including any local supplement and any money representing a career ladder supplement the teacher would have received in the 2015-2016 school year; and

(2) \$400.

(c-3) Provides that Subsection (c-2) and this subsection expire September 1, 2016.

(d) Entitles a classroom teacher employed by a school district in the 2015-2016 school year, as long as the teacher is employed by the same district, a salary that is at least equal to the salary the teacher received for the 2015-2016 school year.

(g) Authorizes the commissioner of education (commissioner) to adopt rules to govern the application of this section, including rules that:

(1) Makes no change to this subdivision; and

(2) specify the credentials a person must hold to be considered a school nurse, rather than to be considered a speech pathologist or school nurse, under this section.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 42.2513(a), Education Code, as follows:

(a) Entitles a school district, including a school district that is otherwise ineligible for state aid under this chapter, to state aid in an amount equal to the sum of:

(1) Makes a nonsubstantive change to this subdivision;

(2) the product of \$4,000 multiplied by the number of classroom teachers employed by the district; and

(3) Makes a nonsubstantive change to this subdivision.

SECTION 3. Repealer, effective September 1, 2017: Section 21.402(c-1) (requiring each school district to pay a monthly salary to each classroom teacher, full-time speech pathologist, full-time librarian, full-time school counselor certified, and full-time school nurse that is at least equal to a certain amount), Education Code.

SECTION 4. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

SECTION 5. Effective date, except as otherwise provided by this Act: September 1, 2015.