

- SUBJECT:** Allowing retired school principals to be employed without losing benefits
- COMMITTEE:** Pensions and Investments — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 5 ayes — Tillery, Crownover, Salinas, George, Rangel  
0 nays  
4 absent — Woolley, Goodman, Telford, Williams
- WITNESSES:** For — Seale Brand, Texas Association of Secondary School Principals; Mary Bull; Harley Eckhart, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; Mike Lehr, Texas Retired Teachers Association; *Registered but did not testify:* Marty DeLeon, Texas Association of School Boards; Beamon Floyd, Texas Association of School Administrators; John Stevens, Texas Business and Education Coalition; Jimmy Wynn, Harris County Department of Education  
  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Under Government Code, sec. 824.601, a retiree may not receive service or disability retirement benefit payments from the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) while working for a Texas public school. Sec. 824.602 lists certain exceptions, including substitute teachers, half-time teachers, and full-time teachers if the retiree is eligible to receive a standard service retirement annuity, teaches in a shortage area as defined by the education commissioner, and has been separated from employment in any public school for at least 12 months.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3147 would prohibit TRS from withholding monthly retirement benefit payments from a retiree who was employed as a principal, including an assistant principal, on a part-time or full-time basis, if the retiree was eligible for a standard service retirement annuity, was certified to serve as a principal, and had been separated from employment in any public school for at least 12 months.

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The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2001. It would apply beginning with the 2001-02 school year.

NOTES: The committee substitute amended the filed version to conform to the Texas Legislative Council format.