

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1752
By: Patrick, Diane et al. (Seliger)
Higher Education
4/26/2013
Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

H.B. 1752 requires the commissioner of higher education to establish a Texas Teacher Residency Program at a public institution of higher education that has formed a partnership with an area school district or open-enrollment charter school.

H.B. 1752 amends current law relating to creating the Texas Teacher Residency Program.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the commissioner of higher education in SECTION 1 (Section 21.805, Education Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 21, Education Code, by adding Subchapter Q, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Q. TEXAS TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Sec. 21.801. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. (a) Requires the commissioner of higher education, not later than March 1, 2014, to, through a competitive selection process, establish a Texas Teacher Residency Program at a public institution of higher education that has developed a commitment to investing in teacher education.

(b) Requires the public institution of higher education to form a partnership with an area school district or open-enrollment charter school to provide employment to residents in the program.

(c) Requires that the program be designed to award teaching residents participating in the program a master's degree and lead to certification under Subchapter B (Certification of Educators) for participating teaching residents who are not already certified teachers.

(d) Requires the public institution of higher education to:

(1) reward faculty instructing in the teacher residency program;

(2) identify faculty who can prepare teachers to impact student achievement in high-need schools;

(3) provide institutional support of faculty who work with the teacher residency program by providing time to teach the courses and valuing the faculty's contributions with rewards in the university tenure process; and

(4) develop and implement a program that acknowledges and elevates the significance and professional nature of teaching at the primary and secondary levels.

Sec. 21.802. PROGRAM COMPONENTS. Requires that the teacher residency program include:

- (1) competitive admission requirements with multiple criteria;
- (2) integration of pedagogy and classroom practice;
- (3) rigorous master's level course work, while undertaking a guided apprenticeship at the partner area school district or open-enrollment charter school;
- (4) a team mentorship approach to expose teaching residents to a variety of teaching methods, philosophies, and classroom environments;
- (5) clear criteria for the selection of mentor teachers based on measures of teacher effectiveness and the appropriate subject area knowledge;
- (6) measures of appropriate progress through the program;
- (7) the collaboration with one or more regional education service centers or local nonprofit education organizations to provide professional development or other structured learning experiences for teaching residents;
- (8) a livable stipend for teaching residents;
- (9) a post-completion commitment by teaching residents to serve four years at schools that are difficult to staff;
- (10) job placement assistance for teaching residents;
- (11) support for teaching residents for not less than one year following the resident's completion of the program through the provision of mentoring, professional development, and networking opportunities;
- (12) demonstration of the integral role and responsibilities of the partner area school district or open-enrollment charter school in fulfilling the purpose of the program; and
- (13) monetary or in-kind contributions provided by the public institution of higher education, partner area school district, or open-enrollment charter school to demonstrate that the program may be sustained in the absence of grant funds or state appropriations.

Sec. 21.803. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY. Requires an individual, to be eligible to be admitted and hired as a teaching resident under the program, to:

- (1) have received the individual's initial teaching certificate not more than two years before applying for a residency and to have less than 18 months of full-time equivalency teaching experience as a certified teacher; or
- (2) hold a bachelor's degree and be a mid-career professional from outside the field of education, and have strong content knowledge or a record of achievement or be a noncertified educator such as a substitute teacher or teaching assistant.

Sec. 21.804. SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS. Requires the teaching residency program to establish criteria for selection of individuals to participate in the program. Requires that the selection criteria include:

- (1) a demonstration of comprehensive subject area knowledge or a record of accomplishment in the field or subject area to be taught;

(2) strong verbal and written communication skills, which may be demonstrated by performance on appropriate tests; and

(3) attributes linked to effective teaching, which may be determined by interviews or performance assessments.

Sec. 21.805. RULES. Requires the commissioner of higher education to adopt rules as necessary to implement this subchapter.

Sec. 21.806. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT CERTAIN FUNDS. (a) Authorizes the commissioner of higher education to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from public and private entities to use for the purposes of this subchapter.

(b) Authorizes the commissioner of higher education, applicable institutions of higher education, partner area school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools to use state funds for the purpose of the program, other than appropriations made specifically for that purpose.

(c) Authorizes the Texas Teacher Residency Program under this subchapter to be established and maintained only if sufficient funds are available under this section for that purpose.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2013.