

## CHAPTER 627

## S.B. No. 95

## AN ACT

relating to the recruitment of teachers, including assistance in the repayment of student loans for teachers.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 11, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 11.37 to read as follows:

*Sec. 11.37. TEACHER RECRUITMENT. (a) The commissioner of education may coordinate and administer a comprehensive program to identify the need for teachers in specific subject areas and geographic regions and to encourage members of minority groups to enter the teaching profession. In coordinating the program, the commissioner shall consider the efforts of existing programs for recruiting minorities into the teaching profession, including those authorized under Section 13.050 of this code. The commissioner shall give priority to implementing this program from the agency's discretionary funds.*

*(b) The commissioner may implement a plan to identify talented secondary school students and to attract them to the teaching profession. In cooperation with the commissioner, the principal of each high school in the state shall appoint a volunteer teacher as the teacher recruiting officer for the school to assist in providing information about the merits of the teaching profession and in identifying and encouraging talented students to become teachers. At least once each school year, the commissioner shall sponsor a meeting in each regional education service center area of the teacher recruiting officers from each high school in that area to provide the officers the opportunity to share information and written materials about the teacher recruitment program.*

*(c) The commissioner shall encourage the business community to cooperate with local schools to develop recruiting programs designed to attract and retain capable teachers. The commissioner shall encourage the business community to provide summer employment opportunities for teachers.*

*(d) The commissioner shall encourage major education associations to cooperate in developing a long-range program promoting teaching as a career and to assist in identifying local activities and resources that may be used to promote the teaching profession.*

*(e) Any funds solicited for or received from any public or private source for this program shall be used exclusively for the implementation of this program.*

SECTION 2. Section 61.701, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

*Sec. 61.701. REPAYMENT AUTHORIZED. The coordinating board may provide, [using funds appropriated for that purpose and] in accordance with this subchapter and board rules, assistance in the repayment of student loans for teachers who apply and qualify for the assistance.*

SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 61.705, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

*(b) A repayment made under this subchapter may be applied [only] to the principal amount of the loan and to interest that accrues.*

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

SECTION 5. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on March 15, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 25, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; passed the House, with amendment, on May 22, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 12, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.