

SUBJECT: Implementing a governor's award for teaching excellence

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Grusendorf, Branch, Eissler, Hochberg, B. Keffer, Mowery
0 nays
3 absent — Oliveira, Delisi, Dutton

WITNESSES: For — Holly Eaton, TX Classroom Teacher Assoc.; Tracy Weinberg, Texas Association for Gifted and Talented; Jo Hanna Whitsett, ATPE
Against — None
On — Tim Bacon, Texas State Teachers Association

DIGEST: CSHB 1668 would amend the Education Code to authorize the commissioner of education to establish an annual program to recognize and honor outstanding teachers who demonstrated superior performance, to be called the Governor's Award of Teaching Excellence Program.

From funds appropriated for this purpose, the commissioner would pay each selected teacher a stipend of at least \$10,000. The commissioner could adopt rules for eligibility and selection of participants.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSHB 1668 would create the Governor's Award for Teaching Excellence program, which annually would honor and recognize the influence that teachers have on society. A program such as this would provide favorable recognition, incentives, and publicity for the recruitment of potential teachers and retention of existing teachers. It also would boost teacher morale and increase the credibility of a participating school, benefiting the community, students, and faculty.

OPPONENTS SAY: No apparent opposition

NOTES:

The committee substitute changed the responsibility of establishing and recognizing classroom teachers from the Texas Education Agency to the commissioner. It removed sections of the bill dealing with eligibility, preferences, and duties of program participants.

According to the fiscal note, HB 1668 would cost \$2,000,000 through fiscal 2006-07.