

AN ACT

relating to a program under which classroom teachers are reimbursed for personal funds expended on classroom supplies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.413 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.413. CLASSROOM SUPPLY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM. (a)

The commissioner shall establish a reimbursement program under which the commissioner provides funds to a school district for the purpose of reimbursing classroom teachers in the district who expend personal funds on classroom supplies. A school district must match any funds provided to the district under the reimbursement program with local funds to be used for the same purpose.

(b) The commissioner shall adopt rules for the local allocation of funds provided to a school district under the reimbursement program. A school district shall allow each classroom teacher in the district who is reimbursed under the reimbursement program to use the funds in the teacher's discretion, except that the funds must be used for the benefit of the district's students. A school district may not use funds received under the reimbursement program to replace local funds used by the district for the same purpose.

(c) The commissioner shall identify state and federal funds

1 available for use under the reimbursement program, including funds  
2 subject to the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (20  
3 U.S.C. Section 5891a et seq.), and its subsequent amendments, as  
4 well as consolidated administrative funds.

5 (d) The commissioner shall establish the reimbursement  
6 program for implementation beginning not later than the 2005-2006  
7 school year. The commissioner may implement the reimbursement  
8 program only if funds are specifically appropriated by the  
9 legislature for the program or if the commissioner identifies  
10 available funds, other than general revenue funds, that may be used  
11 for the program.

12 (e) The legislature may not appropriate funds from the  
13 general revenue fund for the reimbursement program during the state  
14 fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2007. This subsection expires  
15 September 1, 2007.

16 SECTION 2. The commissioner of education shall adopt rules  
17 and establish the classroom supply reimbursement program as  
18 required by Section 21.413, Education Code, as added by this Act,  
19 not later than August 1, 2005.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

David Dewhurst

President of the Senate

Jim Cusick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1844 was passed by the House on May 5, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1844 on May 30, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Robert Harey  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1844 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Astley Saw  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 18 JUNE '03

Date

Rick Perry  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
8:30 P.M. O'CLOCK

JUN 18 2003  
Ann Shea  
Secretary of State