

Chapter 203

S.B. No. 935

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the establishment of a reading excellence team pilot  
3 program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 28.0061 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 28.0061. READING EXCELLENCE TEAM PILOT PROGRAM.

8 (a) Using funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner  
9 shall establish a reading excellence team pilot program in  
10 accordance with this section.

11 (b) A school district is eligible to participate in the  
12 pilot program if, as determined by the commissioner, the district  
13 has low student performance on:

14 (1) a reading instrument administered in accordance  
15 with Section 28.006(c); or

16 (2) a third grade reading assessment instrument  
17 administered under Section 39.023(a).

18 (c) The pilot program must:

19 (1) establish reading excellence teams composed of  
20 reading instruction specialists;

21 (2) allow an eligible school district to request the  
22 assistance of a reading excellence team; and

23 (3) provide a reading excellence team to a requesting  
24 eligible school district to:

1           (A) review with the district the results of the  
2 assessments described under Subsection (b) to determine campuses  
3 and classrooms for kindergarten through third grade with the  
4 greatest need of assistance; and

5           (B) work with teachers on campuses and in  
6 classrooms identified under Paragraph (A) to provide training  
7 necessary to improve student reading outcomes.

8           (d) The commissioner shall adopt rules to administer this  
9 section, including rules establishing qualifications and criteria  
10 for selecting reading instruction specialists for a reading  
11 excellence team.

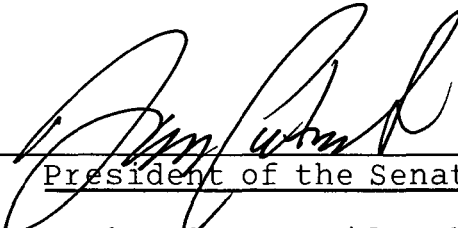
12           (e) This section expires September 1, 2021.

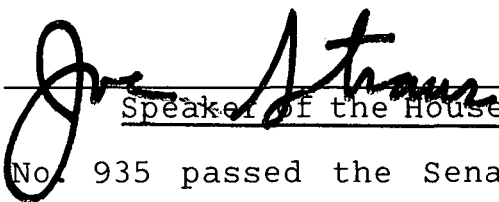
13           SECTION 2. The commissioner of education shall establish  
14 the pilot program under Section 28.0061, Education Code, as added  
15 by this Act, not later than September 1, 2016.

16           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

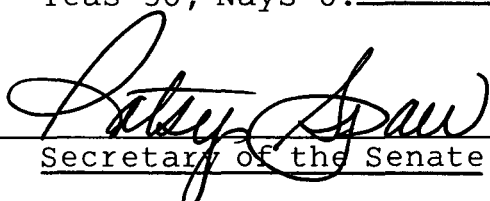
will save

S.B. No. 935

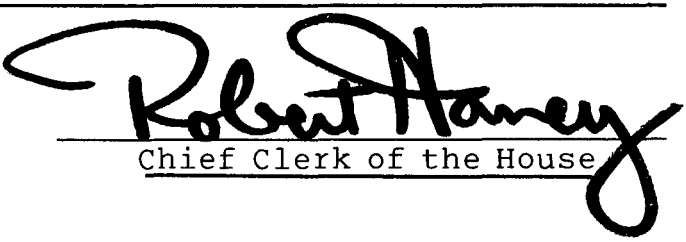
  
President of the Senate

  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 935 passed the Senate on April 23, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0. \_\_\_\_\_


  
Secretary of the Senate

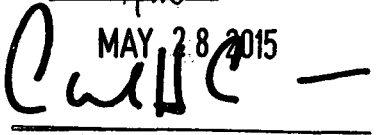
I hereby certify that S.B. No. 935 passed the House on May 23, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 128, Nays 11, two present not voting. \_\_\_\_\_

  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

5-28-2015  
Date

  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
9 pm O'CLOCK  
MAY 28 2015  
  
Secretary of State

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 3, 2015**

**TO:** Honorable Jimmie Don Aycock, Chair, House Committee on Public Education

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE:** SB935 by Kolkhorst (Relating to the establishment of a reading excellence team pilot program.), As Engrossed

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for SB935, As Engrossed: a negative impact of (\$3,070,272) through the biennium ending August 31, 2017.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

**General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</b>
2016	(\$1,539,136)
2017	(\$1,531,136)
2018	(\$1,531,136)
2019	(\$1,531,136)
2020	(\$1,531,136)

**All Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund</b>
	<b>1</b>
2016	(\$1,539,136)
2017	(\$1,531,136)
2018	(\$1,531,136)
2019	(\$1,531,136)
2020	(\$1,531,136)

**Fiscal Analysis**

The bill would require the Commissioner of Education to establish a reading excellence team pilot program and make available reading excellence teams to certain eligible school districts. The pilot program would expire September 1, 2021.

The bill would allow certain eligible school districts, as determined by the Commissioner, to request the assistance of a reading excellence team. Reading excellence teams would review with districts certain assessment results to determine kindergarten to third grade campuses and classrooms in greatest need of assistance and would provide training to improve student reading outcomes.

The bill would require the Commissioner to adopt rules to administer the pilot program, including establishing qualifications and criteria for selecting reading instruction specialists to serve on the teams.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015, or immediately if passed with the necessary voting margins, and would require the Commissioner to establish the pilot program by September 1, 2016.

### **Methodology**

Providing training, resources, and reimbursement to the reading excellence teams would result in an annual cost of approximately \$1.5 million beginning in fiscal year 2016.

This estimate assumes the reading excellence team pilot program would provide services to a limited number of eligible school districts, as determined by the Commissioner, and would not be offered on a statewide basis. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) anticipates the reading excellence team pilot program would consist of four reading excellence teams, allowing the agency to serve a sufficient number of schools to provide meaningful results for the pilot program. According to information provided by TEA, the agency would contract with the regional Education Service Centers (ESCs) for the costs associated with reading excellence teams, resulting in an estimated cost of \$360,000 per ESC selected for the pilot.

The agency indicates each team would consist of three reading instruction specialists, totaling 12 reading instruction specialists statewide. The estimated cost of a reading instruction specialist, including salary, benefits, travel budget, resources, and supplies, would be \$120,000 per specialist annually, totaling \$1.4 million each fiscal year.

In addition to the costs associated with the specialists, TEA estimates an annual cost of \$10,000 to train the reading excellence teams.

Based on information provided by TEA, one FTE would be required to assist with the formation, selection, and management of the reading excellence teams. The estimated cost of an FTE, including salary, benefits, and other operating expenses, would be \$89,136 in fiscal year 2016 and \$81,136 in subsequent years.

### **Local Government Impact**

School districts could incur costs associated with the use and facilitation of reading excellence teams and with implementing the associated recommendations. Costs could vary widely among districts.

**Source Agencies:** 701 Central Education Agency

**LBB Staff:** UP, AW, JBi, AM

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD  
Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 17, 2015**

**TO:** Honorable Larry Taylor, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE:** SB935 by Kolkhorst (relating to the establishment of a reading excellence team pilot program.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for SB935, Committee Report 1st House, Substituted: a negative impact of (\$3,070,272) through the biennium ending August 31, 2017.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

**General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</b>
2016	(\$1,539,136)
2017	(\$1,531,136)
2018	(\$1,531,136)
2019	(\$1,531,136)
2020	(\$1,531,136)

**All Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Savings/(Cost) from <i>General Revenue Fund</i></b>
	<b>1</b>
2016	(\$1,539,136)
2017	(\$1,531,136)
2018	(\$1,531,136)
2019	(\$1,531,136)
2020	(\$1,531,136)

**Fiscal Analysis**

The bill would require the Commissioner of Education to establish a reading excellence team pilot program and make available reading excellence teams to certain eligible school districts. The pilot program would expire September 1, 2021.

The bill would allow certain eligible school districts, as determined by the Commissioner, to request the assistance of a reading excellence team. Reading excellence teams would review with districts certain assessment results to determine kindergarten to third grade campuses and classrooms in greatest need of assistance and would provide training to improve student reading outcomes.

The bill would require the Commissioner to adopt rules to administer the pilot program, including establishing qualifications and criteria for selecting reading instruction specialists to serve on the teams.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015, or immediately if passed with the necessary voting margins, and would require the Commissioner to establish the pilot program by September 1, 2016.

### **Methodology**

Providing training, resources, and reimbursement to the reading excellence teams would result in an annual cost of approximately \$1.5 million beginning in fiscal year 2016.

This estimate assumes the reading excellence team pilot program would provide services to a limited number of eligible school districts, as determined by the Commissioner, and would not be offered on a statewide basis. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) anticipates the reading excellence team pilot program would consist of four reading excellence teams, allowing the agency to serve a sufficient number of schools to provide meaningful results for the pilot program. According to information provided by TEA, the agency would contract with the regional Education Service Centers (ESCs) for the costs associated with reading excellence teams, resulting in an estimated cost of \$360,000 per ESC selected for the pilot.

The agency indicates each team would consist of three reading instruction specialists, totaling 12 reading instruction specialists statewide. The estimated cost of a reading instruction specialist, including salary, benefits, travel budget, resources, and supplies, would be \$120,000 per specialist annually, totaling \$1.4 million each fiscal year.

In addition to the costs associated with the specialists, TEA estimates an annual cost of \$10,000 to train the reading excellence teams.

Based on information provided by TEA, one FTE would be required to assist with the formation, selection, and management of the reading excellence teams. The estimated cost of an FTE, including salary, benefits, and other operating expenses, would be \$89,136 in fiscal year 2016 and \$81,136 in subsequent years.

### **Local Government Impact**

School districts could incur costs associated with the use and facilitation of reading excellence teams and with implementing the associated recommendations. Costs could vary widely among districts.

**Source Agencies:** 701 Central Education Agency

**LBB Staff:** UP, AW, JBi, AM

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD  
Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 31, 2015**

**TO:** Honorable Larry Taylor, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: SB935** by Kolkhorst (Relating to the establishment of reading excellence teams.), As Introduced

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for SB935, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$14,670,272) through the biennium ending August 31, 2017.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

**General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</b>
2016	(\$7,339,136)
2017	(\$7,331,136)
2018	(\$7,331,136)
2019	(\$7,331,136)
2020	(\$7,331,136)

**All Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund</b>
2016	(\$7,339,136)
2017	(\$7,331,136)
2018	(\$7,331,136)
2019	(\$7,331,136)
2020	(\$7,331,136)

**Fiscal Analysis**

The bill would allow the Commissioner of Education to establish and make available reading excellence teams to school campuses rated academically unacceptable under Education Code §39.054 on the grade three reading assessment instruments.



The bill would assign a reading excellence team to a specific campus to work with that campus and review the reading assessment results from the two previous school years to determine which campus classrooms to assist.

The bill would require the Commissioner to adopt criteria for selecting highly-trained reading instruction specialist to serve on the teams.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015, or immediately if passed with the necessary voting margins.

### **Methodology**

Providing training, resources, and reimbursement to the reading excellence teams would result in an annual cost of approximately \$7.3 million beginning in fiscal year 2016.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) assumes it would contract with the twenty regional Education Service Centers (ESCs) for the costs associated with the reading instruction specialists for an estimated cost of \$360,000 per ESC. The agency indicates a reading excellence teams would be based at each ESC. The teams would consist of three reading instruction specialists, totaling 60 reading instruction specialists statewide. The estimated cost of a reading instruction specialist, including salary, benefits, travel budget, resources, and supplies, would be \$120,000 per specialist annually, totaling \$7.2 million each fiscal year.

In addition to the costs associated with the specialists, TEA estimates an annual cost of \$50,000 to train the reading excellence teams.

Based on information provided by TEA, one FTE would be required to assist with the formation, selection, and management of the reading excellence teams. The estimated cost of an FTE, including salary, benefits, and other operating expenses, would be \$89,136 in fiscal year 2016 and \$81,136 in subsequent years.

### **Local Government Impact**

School districts could incur costs associated with the use and facilitation of reading excellence teams and with implementing the associated recommendations. Costs could vary widely among districts.

**Source Agencies:** 701 Central Education Agency

**LBB Staff:** UP, JBi, AM, AW