



TREA NEWS

Legislative Report and Other News

Legislation News

The House Public Education Committee heard testimony on **HB 198 by Clardy** yesterday which is in essence a new merit pay proposal coming from the Governor through the Commissioner of Education. It is modeled after a program that is being used in Dallas.

It also calls for a \$1,000 pay increase for teachers with very little increase in funding.

We visited with the Governor's staff about that proposal and told them we were in full support of a \$1,000 pay raise for teachers and an average teacher salary of \$51,000 which is also required in that legislation, but the state needed to increase funding to pay for those mandated increases.

We testified on the bill yesterday and said the same thing. We also expressed that it was a laudable goal to raise teachers salaries to an average of \$51,000 particularly in rural Texas where the teacher shortage will soon become a crisis and urged that funding be increased to reach that goal.

There was very little support from any education group including teachers and the bill was left pending.

Chairman Huberty said he was skeptical of the bill because it concentrates too much power in the Commissioners hands.

It appears that both the House and Senate have agreed to put \$231 million in TRS care for retirees. The only debate is where the money will come from. The Senate wants to take the money out of Health and Human Services to be paid back next session and the House wants to use the Rainy Day fund.

Education Scholarships for Special Needs children (Vouchers) are not going anywhere in the House.

Gary Van Deaver has introduced **HB 320** which would provide extra funds to school districts to meet the special needs of handicapped children through private providers..

The local school district would determine and identify areas where the school district is not meeting special needs and utilize the grant to obtain those needed services through private providers..

TREA TO PROVIDE MENTOR TRAINING

TREA will again provide Mentor Training for those interested in being a mentor for a beginning superintendent.

The next session will be held on September 20, 2017 starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Region 12 ESC in Waco. Plan to attend that session if you want to be a mentor.

Registration information will be coming soon.