



HB 0595

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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to teacher salaries; creating s. 1012.715,
 F.S.; creating the Teacher Salary Improvement Program to
 provide funding for improved salaries for instructional
 personnel; providing eligibility for salary increases;
 providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that caring and
 qualified public school teachers play a critical role in
 preparing children and young adults for success in higher
 education and in the workplace, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature further recognizes that Florida's
 average teacher salary is significantly below the national
 average and that the State of Florida will need an estimated
 162,296 teachers over the next ten years to address the high
 turnover of new and retiring teachers plus additional teachers
 to comply with the amendment to s. 1, Art. IX of the State
 Constitution, relating to class size reduction, and

WHEREAS, it is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
 provide funding for competitive salaries to help school
 districts retain and recruit caring and qualified teachers in
 the public schools, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1012.715, Florida Statutes, is created
 to read:

1012.715 Teacher Salary Improvement Program.--

(1) The Teacher Salary Improvement Program is created to
 provide funding for improved salaries for instructional



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31 personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01, in the K-12 public school
32 system. For purposes of this section, the Florida School for the
33 Deaf and the Blind shall be considered a school district.

34 (2) The Department of Education shall distribute to each
35 school district an amount as prescribed annually by the
36 Legislature for the Teacher Salary Improvement Program, unless
37 otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act.

38 (a) Each member of instructional personnel who received a
39 satisfactory performance review, pursuant to s. 1012.34, during
40 the previous school year, and with whom the school district has
41 entered into a professional services contract during the current
42 school year, shall be eligible to receive a salary increase
43 pursuant to this section.

44 (b) A school district may establish additional criteria in
45 order to award funds allocated to the school district for
46 purposes of this section.

47 (2) The Department of Education shall provide technical
48 assistance to any school district that requests guidance
49 regarding the implementation of this section.

50 (3) The Department of Education may adopt rules pursuant
51 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this
52 section.

53 Section 2. There is hereby appropriated for fiscal year
54 2003-2004 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of
55 Education the sum of \$192,152,200 for the purpose of carrying
56 out the provisions of this act.

57 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.