

HB 0795

2004

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to teacher salaries; creating s. 1012.715,  
3 F.S.; creating the Teacher Salary Improvement Program to  
4 provide funding for improved salaries for instructional  
5 personnel; requiring the Department of Education to  
6 distribute funds to each school district; providing  
7 eligibility for salary increases; providing rulemaking  
8 authority; providing an appropriation; providing an  
9 effective date.

10  
11 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that caring and  
12 qualified public school teachers play a critical role in  
13 preparing children and young adults for success in higher  
14 education and in the workplace, and

15 WHEREAS, the Legislature further recognizes that Florida's  
16 average teacher salary is significantly below the national  
17 average and that the State of Florida will need an estimated  
18 162,296 teachers over the next ten years to address the high  
19 turnover of new and retiring teachers plus additional teachers  
20 to comply with the amendment to s. 1, Art. IX of the State  
21 Constitution, relating to class size reduction, and

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

26  
27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
28

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

31 1012.715 Teacher Salary Improvement Program.--

32 (1) The Teacher Salary Improvement Program is created to  
 33 provide funding for improved salaries for instructional  
 34 personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01, in the K-12 public school  
 35 system. For purposes of this section, the Florida School for the  
 36 Deaf and the Blind shall be considered a school district.

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

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

47 (b) A school district may establish additional criteria in  
 48 order to award funds allocated to the school district for  
 49 purposes of this section.

50 (3) The Department of Education shall provide technical  
 51 assistance to any school district that requests guidance  
 52 regarding the implementation of this section.

53 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant  
 54 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this  
 55 section.

56 Section 2. There is hereby appropriated for fiscal year  
 57 2004-2005 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of

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58 Education the sum of \$192,152,200 for the purpose of carrying  
59 out the provisions of this act.

60       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.