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FLORENCE SHAPIRO
Texas State Senator
District 8

COMMITTEES:
Education, Chair
Finance
Administration
Transportation and
Homeland Security

President Pro Tempore
2005

Committee Substitute House Bill 1

3rd Called Session of the 79th Legislature

Property Taxes and Meaningful Discretion

- Reduces local property taxes by \$.17 per taxable value \$100 of value in the 2007 tax year.
- Provides school districts with meaningful discretion through access local enrichment up to 4¢ upon approval of the school board and rates above that amount with voter approval.

Teacher Compensation and Quality

- Provides \$2,000 salary increases for all teachers, school nurses, counselors, and librarians.
- Allows educational employees the option to set aside an employee-determined portion of their salary tax-free each year to cover health insurance premiums.
- Rewards educators for improving student achievement in locally designed plans. It also provides investments in initiatives to improve teacher quality such as mentors, instructional coaches, targeted professional development, and incentives for those who teach in hard-to-staff schools and subjects.

High Schools

- Establishes a High School Allotment, funded at a rate of \$500 per student in grades 9-12, to be spent on initiatives to decrease dropout rates, promote graduation and prepare for post-secondary education.
- Allows schools to receive funding for non-traditional instructional schedules to help students at-risk of dropping out of school reach graduation.
- Aligns curriculum standards between public and higher education, strengthens course requirements to better prepare students for post-secondary education, and measures schools on their progress toward college readiness.
- Requires four years of math and science in high school and allows students to earn a minimum of 12 semester hours of college credit upon graduation from high school.

Accountability & Efficiency

- Holds schools accountable for unacceptable performance providing consequences, assistance, and intervention to ensure improvement.
- Establishes electronic student records system to allow for the rapid transfer of records among public schools and higher education institutions.
- Provides easy access to districts' financial data on-line and a summary of the proposed budget to taxpayers.