The Texas Education Agency (TEA) proposes the repeal of §61.1011, concerning additional state aid for tax reduction. The proposed repeal is necessary because the authorizing statute expired September 1, 2017.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: Prior to September 1, 2017, Texas Education Code (TEC), §42.2516, allowed school districts to be held harmless for the loss in local tax collections for maintenance and operations caused by the compression of adopted tax rates by one third. Section 61.1011, adopted under former TEC, §42.2516, detailed the calculation of the hold harmless levels for each district, known as revenue targets, as well as how to determine whether hold harmless money was needed or if the state and local revenue received through formula funding was sufficient so that hold harmless money would not have been needed.

Since the provisions of former TEC, §42.2516, which provided for the calculation of additional state aid for tax reduction, expired September 1, 2017, there is no longer a need for a rule detailing the calculations.

FISCAL IMPACT: Leo Lopez, associate commissioner for school finance/Chief School Finance Officer, has determined that for the first five-year period the proposal is in effect there are no additional costs to state or local government, including school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, required to comply with the proposal.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT: The proposal has no effect on local economy; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required under Texas Government Code, §2001.022.

SMALL BUSINESS, MICROBUSINESS, AND RURAL COMMUNITY IMPACT: The proposal has no direct adverse economic impact for small businesses, microbusinesses, or rural communities; therefore, no regulatory flexibility analysis, specified in Texas Government Code, §2006.002, is required.

COST INCREASE TO REGULATED PERSONS: The proposal does not impose a cost on regulated persons, another state agency, a special district, or a local government and, therefore, is not subject to Texas Government Code, §2001.0045.

TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT: The proposal does not impose a burden on private real property and, therefore, does not constitute a taking under Texas Government Code, §2007.043.

GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT: TEA staff prepared a Government Growth Impact Statement assessment for this proposed rulemaking. During the first five years the proposed rulemaking would be in effect, it would repeal an existing regulation. The proposed repeal would remove from rule provisions relating to the additional state aid for tax reduction allotment, which expired September 1, 2017.

The proposed rulemaking would not create or eliminate a government program; would not require the creation of new employee positions or elimination of existing employee positions; would not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations to the agency; would not require an increase or decrease in fees paid to the agency; would not create a new regulation; would not expand or limit an existing regulation; would not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to its applicability; and would not positively or adversely affect the state's economy.

PUBLIC BENEFIT AND COST TO PERSONS: Mr. Lopez has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of enforcing the proposal would be removing outdated provisions from rule to coincide with changes to the authorizing statute. There is no anticipated economic cost to persons who are required to comply with the proposal.

DATA AND REPORTING IMPACT: The proposal would have no data or reporting impact.

PRINCIPAL AND CLASSROOM TEACHER PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS: The TEA has determined that the proposal would not require a written report or other paperwork to be completed by a principal or classroom teacher.
PUBLIC COMMENTS: The public comment period on the proposal begins January 10, 2020, and ends February 10, 2020. A request for a public hearing on the proposal submitted under the Administrative Procedure Act must be received by the commissioner of education not more than 14 calendar days after notice of the proposal has been published in the Texas Register on January 10, 2020. A form for submitting public comments is available on the TEA website at https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Laws_and_Rules/Commissioner_Rules_(TAC)/Proposed_Commissioner_of_Education_Rules/. Comments on the proposal may also be submitted to Cristina De La Fuente-Valadez, Rulemaking, Texas Education Agency, 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The repeal is proposed under Texas Education Code (TEC), §42.2516, which, prior to September 1, 2017, provided for hold harmless payments for school districts for the loss of local tax collections due to the tax rate compression instituted in 2006. Former TEC, §42.2516(g), authorized the commissioner to adopt rules necessary to implement additional state aid for tax reduction.

CROSS REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The repeal implements Texas Education Code, §42.2516, as this section existed before the expiration of subsections (b)-(f) on September 1, 2017.

§61.1011. Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction (ASATR).