

By: Toth

H.B. No. 2547

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation and administration of the Rural Parents Protection Plan Grant Program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the Rural Parents Protection Plan.

SECTION 2. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER B. RURAL PARENTS PROTECTION PLAN GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 12.060. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Agriculture-based community" means a rural community, as that term is defined by Section 12.046 of this code;

(2) "Economic development" means an economic development program established by Section 12.027 of this code.

(3) "Eligible student" means a school-age child who is eligible to receive a grant under Section 12.063.

(4) "Public school" means a public preschool or primary or secondary school in this state.

(5) "Program" means the Rural Parents Protection Plan Grant Program established under this subchapter.

Section 12.061. RURAL PARENTS PROTECTION PLAN GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The commissioner of agriculture may make grants to eligible students.

(b) The commissioner shall administer the program.

1 Section 12.062. RURAL PARENTS PROTECTION PLAN GRANT FUND.

2 (a) The comptroller shall establish the Rural Parents Protection  
3 Plan Grant fund within the state treasury.

4 (b) Program funds will be allocated to each child to an  
5 educational program best suited for that child in accordance with  
6 rules adopted by the commissioner of agriculture.

7 (c) Funding per participating student shall be equivalent  
8 to 95 percent of the statewide average Foundation School Program  
9 funding.

10 Section 12.063. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive a  
11 grant under the program, a student must be eligible to attend a  
12 public school in an agriculture-based community; and

13 (1) the commissioner determines that economic  
14 development in the agriculture-based community can be improved; or

15 (2) the student's parents determine that their child  
16 is:

17 (A) not receiving adequate agricultural  
18 training;

19 (B) unable to attend their public school due to  
20 migrant worker status;

21 (C) in need of specialized food or nutrition  
22 services; or

23 (D) unsafe at their public school.

24 Section 12.064. RULES. The commissioner may adopt rules as  
25 necessary to administer this subchapter.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.