

By: West

S.B. No. 902

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Texas Leadership Scholars Program to serve as a merit-based scholarship and leadership opportunity for high-achieving, emerging leaders with financial need.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter N to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER N. TEXAS LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Sec. 61.751. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "program" means the Texas Leadership Scholars Program established under this subchapter.

Sec. 61.752. INITIATIVE: ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION; PURPOSE.

(a) The Texas Leadership Scholars Program is established.

(b) The board shall establish and administer, using funds appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, scholarships for high-achieving, low-income students, and academic achievement support and leadership development for student awarded program scholarships.

(c) To qualify for a scholarship under this section, a student must:

(1) be eligible for automatic admission in a general academic teaching institution pursuant to Section 51.803 or be

1 nominated by their school district and have achieved another
2 academic distinction recognized by the Board; and

3 (2) be considered economically disadvantaged as
4 determined by board rule; and

5 (3) maintain a minimum overall grade point average at
6 a general academic teaching institution as determined by board
7 rule.

8 (d) The board may enter into agreements with general
9 academic teaching institutions or other agencies of higher
10 education to provide students in the program with research-based
11 support to make satisfactory academic progress, graduate on-time
12 and engage in leadership development opportunities, including but
13 not limited to program cohort learning communities, mentoring,
14 research and internship opportunities, networking with state
15 government, business, and civic leaders, and statewide cohort
16 learning institutes or seminars.

17 Sec. 61.753. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. The board may
18 solicit, accept, and spend grants, gifts, and donations from any
19 public or private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

20 Sec. 61.754. RULES. The board shall adopt rules for the
21 administration of this subchapter, including rules providing for
22 the determination of scholarship amount, student scholarship
23 eligibility, satisfactory academic progress criteria, and program
24 administration.

25 SECTION 2. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating
26 Board shall adopt rules to administer Subchapter N, Chapter 61,
27 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after

1 the effective date of this Act.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.