

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 902
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 14, 2023; March 3, 2023,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;
 1-4 March 31, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute from Committee on Education by the following vote: Yeas
 1-6 12, Nays 0; March 31, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21	X			

1-22 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 902 By: Springer

1-23 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-24 AN ACT

1-25 relating to the establishment of the Texas Leadership Scholars
 1-26 Program.

1-27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-28 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
 1-29 Subchapter T-3 to read as follows:

1-30 SUBCHAPTER T-3. TEXAS LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS PROGRAM

1-31 Sec. 61.891. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "program"
 1-32 means the Texas Leadership Scholars Program established under this
 1-33 subchapter.

1-34 Sec. 61.892. ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION. (a) The Texas
 1-35 Leadership Scholars Program is established to serve as a
 1-36 merit-based scholarship and leadership opportunity program for
 1-37 high-achieving, emerging leaders with financial need.

1-38 (b) The board shall administer the program.

1-39 (c) Using money appropriated or otherwise available for the
 1-40 purpose, the board shall award scholarships and provide academic
 1-41 achievement support and leadership development to eligible
 1-42 students under the program.

1-43 Sec. 61.893. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY. To be initially eligible
 1-44 to participate in the program, a student must:

1-45 (1) have graduated from a public high school in this
 1-46 state;

1-47 (2) either:

1-48 (A) have qualified for automatic admission to a
 1-49 general academic teaching institution under Section 51.803; or

1-50 (B) be nominated by the student's high school for
 1-51 participation in the program and hold another academic distinction
 1-52 recognized by the board;

1-53 (3) be enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a
 1-54 general academic teaching institution;

1-55 (4) be economically disadvantaged, as determined by
 1-56 board rule; and

1-57 (5) comply with any additional requirement adopted by
 1-58 the board.

1-59 Sec. 61.894. CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY. After establishing
 1-60 initial eligibility to participate in the program under Section

2-1 61.893, a student may continue participating in the program only if
2-2 the student:

2-3 (1) is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a
2-4 general academic teaching institution;

2-5 (2) maintains a minimum overall grade point average
2-6 determined by board rule; and

2-7 (3) complies with any additional requirement adopted
2-8 by the board.

2-9 Sec. 61.895. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP
2-10 DEVELOPMENT. The board may enter into agreements with general
2-11 academic teaching institutions or other institutions of higher
2-12 education to provide students participating in the program with:

2-13 (1) research-based support to make satisfactory
2-14 academic progress and graduate on time; and

2-15 (2) leadership development opportunities, including:

2-16 (A) program cohort learning communities;

2-17 (B) mentoring, research, and internship
2-18 opportunities;

2-19 (C) networking with state government, business,
2-20 and civic leaders; and

2-21 (D) statewide cohort learning institutes or
2-22 seminars.

2-23 Sec. 61.896. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. The board may
2-24 solicit, accept, and spend grants, gifts, and donations from any
2-25 public or private source for the purposes of the program.

2-26 Sec. 61.897. RULES. The board shall adopt rules for the
2-27 administration of the program, including rules providing for the
2-28 amount and permissible uses of a scholarship awarded under the
2-29 program.

2-30 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
2-31 shall adopt rules to administer Subchapter T-3, Chapter 61,
2-32 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after
2-33 the effective date of this Act.

2-34 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-35 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-36 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-37 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-38 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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