

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 964

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to matching grants for low to moderate income families  
3 participating in the higher education savings or prepaid tuition  
4 program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 54, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 54.7085 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.7085. STATE MATCHING GRANTS FOR COLLEGE SAVINGS  
9 PLANS. (a) From money available for this purpose, the board may  
10 award grants to match all or part of the contributions to a savings  
11 trust account under this subchapter or all or part of the payments  
12 under a prepaid tuition contract under Subchapter F for a  
13 beneficiary who resides in Texas and has a family income not greater  
14 than the income level established by the board, which may not exceed  
15 the statewide median family income, adjusted for family size,  
16 established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban  
17 Development.

18 (b) For purposes of awarding grants under this section, the  
19 board shall establish and use a sliding scale under which the amount  
20 of a grant is determined according to the family income of the  
21 beneficiary and the amount of the contributions to the savings  
22 trust account or the payments made under the prepaid tuition  
23 contract.

24 (c) The board may solicit and accept gifts and grants from

1 any public or private source for the purposes of this section.

2 (d) The legislature may appropriate money for the purposes  
3 of this section.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.