

By: Eissler, et al.

H.B. No. 1632

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1632:

By: Hochberg

C.S.H.B. No. 1632

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of technology by public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 32, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 32.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.007. AGREEMENT WITH PUBLIC BROADCASTING STATION.

(a) The commissioner may enter into an agreement with a public broadcasting station, or a consortium of public broadcasting stations, under which the station or consortium will provide online instructional content and educational materials.

(b) From funds appropriated to the agency, the commissioner may, under an agreement entered into under Subsection (a), make instructional materials available through public broadcasting stations for purposes of instruction and professional development and for use in providing adult education.

(c) An agreement entered into under Subsection (a) must, to the extent practicable, provide access to instructional materials and online content to persons located in all parts of this state.

(d) For purposes of providing high-quality online instructional materials under this section, the commissioner may:

(1) use federal funds that may be used for those purposes; or

(2) use unexpended balances of funds appropriated to the agency for educational purposes, including adult education.

1 SECTION 2. Sections 32.151 and 32.152, Education Code, as
2 added by Chapter 834, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular
3 Session, 2003, are amended to read as follows:

4 Sec. 32.151. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROJECT. The agency
5 may by rule establish the technology immersion pilot project [~~to~~
6 ~~provide a wireless mobile computing device to each student~~] in [a]
7 participating schools [~~school and implement the use of software,~~
8 ~~on-line courses, and other appropriate learning technologies that~~
9 ~~have been shown~~] to improve academic achievement and the progress
10 measures listed in Section 32.155(e).

11 Sec. 32.152. PILOT PROJECT ADMINISTRATION. The [~~If the~~
12 ~~agency establishes the pilot project under Section 32.151, the~~]
13 agency shall establish a procedure and develop criteria for the
14 administration of the pilot project. In administering the pilot
15 project, the agency shall:

16 (1) select participating [~~school districts or~~]
17 schools;

18 (2) define the conditions for the distribution and use
19 of computer equipment and other technologies;

20 (3) purchase and distribute computer equipment and
21 other technologies in a manner that provides different technologies
22 to different participating campuses;

23 (4) enter into contracts as necessary to implement the
24 pilot project;

25 (5) monitor local pilot project implementation; and

26 (6) conduct a final evaluation of the pilot project,
27 including an evaluation of the different technologies distributed

1 under Subdivision (3).

2 SECTION 3. Sections 32.153(a) and (c), Education Code, as
3 added by Chapter 834, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular
4 Session, 2003, are amended to read as follows:

5 (a) To implement the pilot project, the agency may use any
6 gift, grant, or donation given for the pilot project. The agency
7 may solicit and accept a gift, grant, or donation of any kind from
8 any source, including from a foundation, private entity,
9 governmental entity, and institution of higher education, for the
10 implementation of the pilot project. The agency may use [~~only~~
11 ~~undedicated and unobligated~~] money from the general revenue fund
12 for purposes of the pilot project.

13 (c) The agency shall use pilot project funds for:

14 (1) the purchase of wireless mobile computing devices
15 so that each student in a participating classroom has a wireless
16 mobile computing device for use at school and at home;

17 (2) the purchase of interactive whole group learning
18 and assessment tools for each participating classroom;

19 (3) the purchase of other equipment, including
20 additional computer hardware and software;

21 (4) [~~(3)~~] the hiring of technical support staff for
22 school districts or schools participating in the pilot project;
23 and

24 (5) [~~(4)~~] the purchase of technology-based learning
25 materials and resources.

26 SECTION 4. The heading to Section 32.154, Education Code,
27 as added by Chapter 834, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular

1 Session, 2003, is amended to read as follows:

2 Sec. 32.154. [~~DISTRICT OR~~] SCHOOL SELECTION.

3 SECTION 5. Section 32.154, Education Code, as added by
4 Chapter 834, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003,
5 is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b)
6 to read as follows:

7 (a-1) In addition to school districts and schools selected
8 before September 1, 2007, for participation in the technology
9 immersion pilot project, the agency shall select for participation
10 in the pilot project for the 2007-2008 and subsequent school years:

11 (1) each high school to which a district regularly
12 assigns students who were enrolled in grade eight during the
13 2006-2007 school year at a district school participating in the
14 pilot project; and

15 (2) one middle or junior high school and one high
16 school in each state senatorial district.

17 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1)(1), the [~~The~~]
18 agency shall select the participating [~~districts and~~] schools for
19 the pilot project based on each [~~district's or~~] school's need for
20 the pilot project. In selecting participants, the agency shall
21 consider the following criteria:

22 (1) whether the [~~district or~~] school has limited
23 access to educational resources that could be improved through the
24 use of electronic textbooks or technological equipment that
25 contributes to student learning [~~wireless mobile computing devices~~
26 ~~and other technologies~~];

27 (2) whether the [~~district or~~] school has the following

1 problems and whether those problems can be mitigated through the
2 use of electronic textbooks or technological equipment that
3 contributes to student learning [~~wireless mobile computing devices~~
4 ~~and other technologies~~]:

5 (A) documented teacher shortages in critical
6 areas;

7 (B) limited access to advanced placement
8 courses;

9 (C) low rates of satisfactory performance on
10 assessment instruments under Subchapter B, Chapter 39; and

11 (D) high dropout rates;

12 (3) the [~~district's~~ or] school's readiness to
13 incorporate technology into its classrooms;

14 (4) the possibility of obtaining a trained technology
15 support staff and high-speed Internet services for the [~~district~~
16 ~~or~~] school; and

17 (5) the methods the [~~district~~ or] school will use to
18 measure the progress of the pilot project in the district or school
19 in accordance with Section 32.155(e).

20 SECTION 6. Sections 32.154(a) and (c), Education Code, as
21 added by Chapter 834, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular
22 Session, 2003, are repealed.

23 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.