

By: Shapiro, et al.

S.B. No. 1700

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state assistance with the costs of constructing or renovating public high school science laboratories.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 7, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 7.062 to read as follows:

Sec. 7.062. SCIENCE LABORATORY GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "wealth per student" means a school district's taxable value of property as determined under Subchapter M, Chapter 403, Government Code, or, if applicable, Section 42.2521, divided by the district's average daily attendance as determined under Section 42.005.

(b) Using funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall establish a program to provide competitive grants to school districts for the purpose of constructing or renovating high school science laboratories.

(c) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement the program, including rules addressing eligibility, application procedures, and accountability for use of grant funds.

(d) The rules must:

(1) limit the amount of assistance provided through a grant to not more than:

(A) for a construction project, \$200 per square foot of the science laboratory to be constructed; or

1                   (B) for a renovation project, \$100 per square  
2 foot of the science laboratory to be renovated;

3                   (2) require a school district to demonstrate, as a  
4 condition of eligibility for a grant, that the existing district  
5 science laboratories are insufficient in number to comply with the  
6 curriculum requirements imposed for the recommended and advanced  
7 high school programs under Section 28.025(b-1)(1); and

8                   (3) provide for ranking school districts that apply  
9 for grants on the basis of wealth per student and giving priority in  
10 the award of grants to districts with low wealth per student.

11                   SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.