

1-1 By: Shapiro S.B. No. 1700  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 9, 2007; March 21, 2007, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 16, 2007,  
1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the  
1-5 following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 16, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1700 By: Shapiro

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to state assistance with the costs of constructing or  
1-10 renovating public high school science laboratories.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 7, Education Code, is  
1-13 amended by adding Section 7.062 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 7.062. SCIENCE LABORATORY GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this  
1-15 section, "wealth per student" means a school district's taxable  
1-16 value of property as determined under Subchapter M, Chapter 403,  
1-17 Government Code, or, if applicable, Section 42.2521, divided by the  
1-18 district's average daily attendance as determined under Section  
1-19 42.005.

1-20 (b) Using funds appropriated for that purpose, the  
1-21 commissioner shall establish a program to provide competitive  
1-22 grants to school districts for the purpose of constructing or  
1-23 renovating high school science laboratories.

1-24 (c) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to  
1-25 implement the program, including rules addressing eligibility,  
1-26 application procedures, and accountability for use of grant funds.

1-27 (d) The rules must:

1-28 (1) limit the amount of assistance provided through a  
1-29 grant to not more than:

1-30 (A) for a construction project, \$200 per square  
1-31 foot of the science laboratory to be constructed; or

1-32 (B) for a renovation project, \$100 per square  
1-33 foot of the science laboratory to be renovated;

1-34 (2) require a school district to demonstrate, as a  
1-35 condition of eligibility for a grant, that the existing district  
1-36 science laboratories are insufficient in number to comply with the  
1-37 curriculum requirements imposed for the recommended and advanced  
1-38 high school programs under Section 28.025(b-1)(1); and

1-39 (3) provide for ranking school districts that apply  
1-40 for grants on the basis of wealth per student and giving priority in  
1-41 the award of grants to districts with low wealth per student.

1-42 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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