

By: Deshotel

H.B. No. 160

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 160:

By: McReynolds

C.S.H.B. No. 160

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation and administration of a grant initiative for a community-based at-risk youth program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. EDUCATION AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Sec. 33.251. PROGRAM. The agency shall administer the Education and Self-Sufficiency Program as described by this subchapter.

Sec. 33.252. STATE DIRECTOR. The commissioner shall designate a state director for the Education and Self-Sufficiency Program to coordinate community-based efforts to accomplish the purposes of the grant initiative described by Section 33.253(a).

Sec. 33.253. GRANT INITIATIVE. (a) Subject to available funding under Subsection (c) or (d), the commissioner shall award grants to school districts, school campuses, and community-based organizations participating in the Education and Self-Sufficiency Program to:

(1) assist students at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by Section 29.081, to develop a foundation for a well-balanced and appropriate education from early childhood education through high school through the use of:

(A) small school campuses that permit highly

1 personal learning environments and that offer a culturally
2 sensitive curriculum;

3 (B) a variety of instructional and interactive
4 methods to develop self-respect, self-confidence, and students'
5 leadership skills; and

6 (C) after-school enrichment programs to help
7 students complete homework and improve academic skills;

8 (2) provide career and technical education training,
9 job readiness training, and job placement assistance for high
10 school students at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by
11 Section 29.081; and

12 (3) provide at least two years of mentoring for high
13 school students qualified and planning to enroll in postsecondary
14 education programs, including junior college programs or programs
15 of public technical institutes, as defined by Section 61.003.

16 (b) The commissioner shall award grants under this
17 subchapter after receiving and reviewing recommendations from the
18 state director. Before awarding a grant under this section, the
19 commissioner:

20 (1) may require a campus or school district to:

21 (A) obtain local matching funds; or

22 (B) meet other conditions, including providing
23 assistance in the development of a personal graduation plan under
24 Section 28.0212 for each student enrolled in high school; and

25 (2) shall require a community-based organization to
26 demonstrate a proven track record of successfully working
27 independently in an area identified in Subsection (a).

1 (c) The commissioner may:

2 (1) accept gifts, grants, or donations from private
3 entities to use in awarding grants under this section; and

4 (2) coordinate gifts, grants, or donations with
5 federal or other available funding to award grants under this
6 section.

7 (d) The state director may accept a donation of services or
8 money or other property that the state director determines furthers
9 the lawful objectives of the program. Each donation under this
10 subsection from a private entity, with the name of the donor and the
11 purpose of the donation, must be reported in the public records of
12 the program.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.