

By: Madden

H.B. No. 550

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to annual courses on public school finance offered to the
3 public by regional education service centers.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 8.052, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 8.052. STATE INITIATIVES. (a) As directed by the
8 commissioner, each regional education service center shall, as
9 necessary, use funds distributed under Section 8.123 to implement
10 initiatives identified by the legislature, including the annual
11 course on public school finance required by Subsection (b).

12 (b) Once each year, each regional education service center
13 shall offer to members of the public who reside within the center's
14 region a course on public school finance. The center may not charge
15 a fee for a course provided under this subsection. The course must
16 include information concerning the following:

17 (1) each source of public money used to finance public
18 primary and secondary education in this state;

19 (2) the factors the board of trustees of a school
20 district generally consider and the process a district generally
21 uses in adopting ad valorem tax rates:

22 (A) for district maintenance and operations; and

23 (B) for purposes of paying the principal of and
24 interest on district bonds;

1 (3) the effect of district spending decisions on
2 district ad valorem tax rates;

3 (4) any reliable data concerning a correlation between
4 the amount of money spent on education and the level of or
5 improvement in student performance; and

6 (5) resources, including Internet websites, that may
7 be useful in researching the amount and purposes of district
8 expenditures.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.