

By: Turner of Tarrant

H.B. No. 1017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to grants to certain school districts and countywide
3 public school transportation systems to be used to pay costs in
4 purchasing school buses capable of using natural gas or propane as
5 fuel.

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

7 SECTION 1. Chapter 34, Education Code, is amended by adding
8 Section 34.0051 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 34.0051. GRANT PROGRAM FOR PURCHASE OF BUSES USING
10 NATURAL GAS OR PROPANE FUEL. (a) The commissioner by rule shall
11 establish a program under which the commissioner may award to
12 school districts and to countywide public school transportation
13 systems grants to be used to pay costs in purchasing school buses
14 capable of using natural gas or propane as fuel to replace school
15 buses that use diesel fuel.

16 (b) The program established under Subsection (a) must
17 provide for:

18 (1) awarding a grant only to a school district or
19 countywide transportation system located in whole or in part in an
20 area designated as a nonattainment area under Section 107(d) of the
21 federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Section 7407(d));

22 (2) ensuring that grant money is used by a district or
23 countywide transportation system only in purchasing a school bus
24 capable of using natural gas or propane as fuel to replace a school

1 bus that uses diesel fuel; and

2 (3) limiting the amount of the grant to an amount that
3 is the lesser of:

4 (A) \$40,000; and

5 (B) the difference, as determined under
6 commissioner rule, between the average cost of a school bus capable
7 of using natural gas or propane as fuel and a substantially similar
8 school bus that uses diesel fuel.

9 (c) Subsection (b)(2) includes the purchase of a school bus
10 in the manner provided by Section 34.005 or 45.001(a)(1)(D).

11 (d) A grant awarded under this section is in addition to a
12 transportation allotment under Section 42.155.

13 (e) A grant awarded under this section shall be paid for
14 with funds appropriated to the agency that may be used for that
15 purpose.

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