

By: Marquez

H.B. No. 1477

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transportation allotment provided under the public school finance system.

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

SECTION 1. Section 42.155, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c), (e), and (g) and adding Subsections (c-1), (c-2), (c-3), (e-1), (e-2), (e-3), (g-1), (g-2), and (g-3) to read as follows:

(c) Each district or county operating a regular transportation system is entitled to an allotment based on the daily cost per regular eligible student of operating and maintaining the regular transportation system and the linear density of that system. In determining the cost, the commissioner shall give consideration to factors affecting the actual cost of providing these transportation services in each district or county. The average actual cost is to be computed by the commissioner and included for consideration by the legislature in the General Appropriations Act.

(c-1) The allotment per mile of approved route under Subsection (c) is computed as follows:

<u>Linear Density Grouping</u>	<u>Allocation Per Mile of</u> <u>Approved Route</u>
2.40 and above . . . . .	\$3.69
1.65 to 2.40 . . . . .	3.22

1        1.15 to 1.65 . . . . . 2.86  
2        .90 to 1.15 . . . . . 2.50  
3        up to .90 . . . . . 2.27

4 ~~[may not exceed the amount set by appropriation].~~

5        (c-2) Subsection (c-1) applies beginning with the 2014-2015  
6 school year. For the 2009-2010 through the 2013-2014 school years,  
7 the allotment per mile of approved route under Subsection (c) is an  
8 amount equal to the product of the amount for each linear density  
9 grouping established in Rider 4, page III-7, Chapter 1369, Acts of  
10 the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005 (the General  
11 Appropriations Act), and:

- 12            (1) for the 2009-2010 school year, 1.263;  
13            (2) for the 2010-2011 school year, 1.526;  
14            (3) for the 2011-2012 school year, 1.789;  
15            (4) for the 2012-2013 school year, 2.052; or  
16            (5) for the 2013-2014 school year, 2.315.

17        (c-3) Subsection (c-2) and this subsection expire September  
18 1, 2015.

19        (e) The commissioner may grant an amount ~~[set by~~  
20 ~~appropriation]~~ for private or commercial transportation for  
21 eligible students from isolated areas. The need for this type of  
22 transportation grant shall be determined on an individual basis and  
23 the amount granted shall not exceed the actual cost. The grants may  
24 be made only in extreme hardship cases. A grant may not be made if  
25 the students live within two miles of an approved school bus route.

26        (e-1) The maximum allotment for private or commercial  
27 transportation under Subsection (e) is an amount equal to the

1 lesser of \$0.64 per mile or \$2,107 per eligible student.

2 (e-2) Subsection (e-1) applies beginning with the 2014-2015  
3 school year. For the 2009-2010 through the 2013-2014 school years,  
4 the maximum allotment under Subsection (e) is an amount equal to the  
5 product of the lesser of \$0.25 per mile or \$816 per eligible student  
6 and:

7 (1) for the 2009-2010 school year, 1.263;

8 (2) for the 2010-2011 school year, 1.526;

9 (3) for the 2011-2012 school year, 1.789;

10 (4) for the 2012-2013 school year, 2.052; or

11 (5) for the 2013-2014 school year, 2.315.

12 (e-3) Subsection (e-2) and this subsection expire September  
13 1, 2015.

14 (g) A school district or county that provides special  
15 transportation services for eligible special education students is  
16 entitled to a state allocation paid on a previous year's  
17 cost-per-mile basis. [~~The maximum rate per mile allowable shall be~~  
18 ~~set by appropriation based on data gathered from the first year of~~  
19 ~~each preceding biennium.~~] Districts may use a portion of their  
20 support allocation to pay transportation costs, if necessary. The  
21 commissioner may grant an amount set by appropriation for private  
22 transportation to reimburse parents or their agents for  
23 transporting eligible special education students. The mileage  
24 allowed shall be computed along the shortest public road from the  
25 student's home to school and back, morning and afternoon. The need  
26 for this type of transportation shall be determined on an  
27 individual basis and shall be approved only in extreme hardship

1 cases.

2 (g-1) The maximum allotment for special transportation  
3 services under Subsection (g) is an amount equal to the lesser of  
4 \$2.78 per mile or \$2,107 per eligible special education student.

5 (g-2) Subsection (g-1) applies beginning with the 2014-2015  
6 school year. For the 2009-2010 through the 2013-2014 school years,  
7 the maximum allotment for special transportation services under  
8 Subsection (g) is an amount equal to the product of the lesser of  
9 \$1.08 per mile or \$816 per eligible special education student and:

10 (1) for the 2009-2010 school year, 1.263;

11 (2) for the 2010-2011 school year, 1.526;

12 (3) for the 2011-2012 school year, 1.789;

13 (4) for the 2012-2013 school year, 2.052; or

14 (5) for the 2013-2014 school year, 2.315.

15 (g-3) Subsection (g-2) and this subsection expire September  
16 1, 2015.

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