By: Shapleigh   S.B. No. 2178

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment by the commissioner of education of a

3 computer lending pilot program for public schools.

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

5   SECTION 1.   Chapter 32, Education Code, is amended by adding

6 Subchapter H to read as follows:

7   SUBCHAPTER H. COMPUTER LENDING PILOT PROGRAM

8   Sec. 32.351. ESTABLISHMENT   OF   PILOT   PROGRAM.   The

9 commissioner by rule shall establish a computer lending pilot

10 program to provide computers to participating public schools that

11 make computers available for use by students and their parents.

12   Sec. 32.352. PILOT   PROGRAM   ADMINISTRATION.   The

13 commissioner shall establish procedures for the administration of

14 the pilot program, including procedures for distributing to

15 participating public schools:

16   (1)   any surplus or salvage data processing equipment

17 available for distribution under the pilot program; or

18   (2)   computers donated or purchased for that purpose

19 with funds from any available source, including a foundation,

20 private entity, governmental entity, and institution of higher

21 education.

22   Sec. 32.353. ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS. A public school is eligible

23 to participate in the pilot program if:

24   (1)   50 percent or more of the students enrolled in the

1

1 school are educationally disadvantaged; and

2   (2) the school operates or agrees to operate a

3 computer lending program that:

4   (A) allows students and parents to borrow a

5 computer;

6   (B) includes an option for students and parents

7 to work toward owning a computer initially borrowed under the

8 school's lending program, subject to any applicable legal

9 restrictions regarding disposition of the computer involved;

10   (C) provides computer training for students and

11 parents; and

12   (D) operates outside regular school hours,

13 including operation until at least 7 p.m. on at least three days

14 each week.

15   Sec. 32.354. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than January 1 of

16 each year, the commissioner shall submit a report to the

17 legislature regarding the computer lending pilot program

18 established under this subchapter.

19   Sec. 32.355. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires September

20 1, 2014.

21   SECTION 2. Section 2175.128, Government Code, is amended by

22 adding Subsections (a-1) and (b-1) to read as follows:

23   (a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), if a disposition of a

24 state agency's surplus or salvage data processing equipment is not

25 made under Section 2175.125 or 2175.184, the state agency shall

26 make the equipment available to the commissioner of education for

27 use in the computer lending pilot program established under

1   Subchapter H, Chapter 32, Education Code. If the commissioner of

2   education declines to take the equipment, the state agency shall

3   transfer the equipment in accordance with Subsection (a). The

4   state agency may not collect a fee or other reimbursement from the

5   commissioner of education for the equipment made available under

6   this subsection. This subsection expires September 1, 2014.

7   (b-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), if a disposition of

8   the surplus or salvage data processing equipment of a state

9   eleemosynary institution or an institution or agency of higher

10 education is not made under other law, the institution or agency

11 shall make the equipment available to the commissioner of education

12 for use in the computer lending pilot program established under

13 Subchapter H, Chapter 32, Education Code. If the commissioner of

14 education declines to take the equipment, the institution or agency

15 shall transfer the equipment in accordance with Subsection (b).

16 The state eleemosynary institution or institution or agency of

17 higher education may not collect a fee or other reimbursement from

18 the commissioner of education for the equipment made available

19 under this subsection. This subsection expires September 1, 2014.

20   SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.