

By: Creighton

H.B. No. 1331

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the availability of certain school district financial information on certain districts' Internet websites.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 44, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Sec. 44.101. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only to a school district that is ranked among the 50 highest in student enrollment, as determined by the commissioner.

Sec. 44.102. ELECTRONIC CHECKING ACCOUNT TRANSACTION REGISTER. (a) A school district shall maintain the transaction register for the district's checking account in a searchable electronic spreadsheet format, such as a portable document format (PDF) or similar file type, in which the transaction register is readily available for purposes of Subsections (e) and (f). Except as provided by Subsection (c) or (d), the electronic checking account transaction register must include for each check written from a district checking account:

(1) the transaction amount;

(2) the name of the payee; and

(3) either:

(A) a statement of the purpose of the expenditure for which the check was written; or

1 (B) identification of the purpose of the
2 expenditure, using the function code assigned to the expenditure
3 for purposes of meeting state reporting requirements.

4 (a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), beginning September
5 1, 2011, a school district's electronic checking account
6 transaction register must contain the information required by
7 Subsections (a)(1) and (2) for each check dated on or after August
8 1, 2011. Beginning September 1, 2012, a district's electronic
9 checking account transaction register must contain the information
10 required by Subsections (a)(1) through (3) for each check dated on
11 or after August 1, 2012. This subsection expires October 1, 2012.

12 (b) If the school district complies with Subsection (a)(3)
13 in the manner provided by Subsection (a)(3)(B), the district shall
14 post on the district's Internet website:

15 (1) a description of each function code used for state
16 reporting requirements; or

17 (2) a link to a page on the agency's Internet website
18 that describes each function code used for state reporting
19 requirements.

20 (c) A school district may not include in the district's
21 electronic checking account transaction register a check issued to
22 a district employee in payment of:

23 (1) salary, wages, or an employment stipend; or

24 (2) a workers' compensation income benefit, medical
25 benefit, death benefit, or burial benefit that is issued by a school
26 district operating as a self-insurer under Chapter 504, Labor Code.

27 (d) This section does not apply to a checking account

1 maintained by a school district or school campus solely for a
2 student activity fund.

3 (e) A school district shall prominently post the electronic
4 checking account transaction register at all times on the
5 district's Internet website for viewing and downloading by
6 interested persons.

7 (f) A school district shall share data from the electronic
8 checking account transaction register with any interested person
9 who requests the data.

10 (g) A school district shall:

11 (1) update the electronic checking account
12 transaction register at least once each month, not later than the
13 30th day after the closing date of the most recent monthly statement
14 for the checking account; and

15 (2) maintain each transaction or listing in the
16 electronic checking account transaction register on the district's
17 Internet website until the second anniversary of the date of the
18 transaction or listing.

19 Sec. 44.103. POSTING OF DISTRICT CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS.

20 (a) A school district shall post on the district's Internet website
21 a monthly listing of each transaction made using a credit card
22 issued to:

23 (1) the district; or

24 (2) a district officer or employee for use in
25 connection with district business.

26 (b) The listing of credit card transactions under
27 Subsection (a) must include, for each transaction:

1 (1) the month and year of the transaction;

2 (2) the amount of the transaction; and

3 (3) the name of the payee.

4 (c) A school district may comply with Subsection (a) by
5 posting a credit card statement on the district's Internet website.
6 Before posting a credit card statement as permitted by this
7 subsection, a school district shall remove or obliterate the name
8 of the credit card issuer, the credit card number, the name of the
9 person to whom the card is issued, the day of the month on which each
10 transaction shown was made, and the expiration date.

11 (d) A school district shall:

12 (1) post each credit card transaction not later than
13 the 30th day after the first date the district pays any portion of
14 the balance due shown on the credit card statement that contains the
15 transaction; and

16 (2) maintain the listing of a credit card transaction
17 on the district's Internet website until the second anniversary of
18 the date of the transaction.

19 (e) A school district shall post on the district's Internet
20 website the first monthly listing of credit card transactions by
21 listing each transaction on the first monthly statement the
22 district receives that covers a billing period that ends after
23 August 1, 2011. This subsection expires December 1, 2011.

24 Sec. 44.104. POSTING OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION
25 INFORMATION. (a) In this section, "compensation" means salaries,
26 wages, and employment stipends.

27 (b) Not later than the 30th day after the date the agency

1 posts the information submitted by the district under the Public
2 Education Information Management System (PEIMS), a school district
3 shall post on the district's Internet website a listing of the total
4 amounts budgeted for district employees' compensation for the
5 school year, grouped by the following categories of employees:

6 (1) prekindergarten and kindergarten teachers;
7 (2) elementary school teachers other than those listed
8 in Subdivision (1);

9 (3) secondary school teachers;

10 (4) special education teachers;

11 (5) educational supervisors;

12 (6) counselors;

13 (7) educational diagnosticians;

14 (8) librarians;

15 (9) nurses and physicians;

16 (10) therapists;

17 (11) psychologists and associate psychologists;

18 (12) educational support personnel other than those
19 listed in Subdivisions (5) through (11);

20 (13) administrative or instructional officers;

21 (14) principals;

22 (15) assistant principals;

23 (16) superintendents;

24 (17) assistant superintendents;

25 (18) educational aides; and

26 (19) all other employees.

27 (c) For each category of employees under Subsection (b), the

1 district shall post:

2 (1) the number of full-time employees; and

3 (2) the average compensation.

4 (d) A school district shall maintain the employee
5 compensation information for a school year on the district's
6 Internet website until the district posts the information for the
7 following school year.

8 Sec. 44.105. POSTING OF DISTRICT FUND BALANCES. (a) A
9 school district shall post on the district's Internet website a
10 statement of the district's obligated and unobligated fund
11 balances.

12 (b) A school district shall:

13 (1) update the statement of fund balances at least
14 once each month; and

15 (2) maintain each statement of fund balances on the
16 district's Internet website until the second anniversary of the
17 date of the statement.

18 (c) A school district should maintain minimum fund balances
19 equal to at least two months of the district's operating budget.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.