

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 1729  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2011; March 23, 2011, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;  
1-4 April 11, 2011, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 11, 2011,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1729 By: Zaffirini

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and  
1-11 Mathematics (T-STEM) Challenge Scholarship program.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding  
1-14 Subchapter GG to read as follows:

1-15 SUBCHAPTER GG. TEXAS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND  
1-16 MATHEMATICS (T-STEM) CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

1-17 Sec. 61.9791. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "STEM  
1-18 program" means a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics  
1-19 program.

1-20 Sec. 61.9792. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. The board shall  
1-21 establish and administer, in accordance with this subchapter and  
1-22 board rules, the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and  
1-23 Mathematics (T-STEM) Challenge Scholarship program under which the  
1-24 board provides a scholarship to a student who meets the eligibility  
1-25 criteria prescribed by Section 61.9793.

1-26 Sec. 61.9793. ELIGIBLE STUDENT. (a) To receive an initial  
1-27 scholarship under this subchapter, a student must:

1-28 (1) graduate from high school with a grade point  
1-29 average of at least 3.0 on a four-point scale in mathematics and  
1-30 science courses;

1-31 (2) enroll in a STEM program at an eligible  
1-32 institution; and

1-33 (3) agree to work no more than 15 hours a week for a  
1-34 business participating in the STEM program.

1-35 (b) To continue to qualify for a scholarship under this  
1-36 subchapter, a student must:

1-37 (1) remain enrolled in a STEM program at an eligible  
1-38 institution;

1-39 (2) maintain an overall grade point average of at  
1-40 least 3.0 on a four-point scale;

1-41 (3) complete at least 80 percent of all semester  
1-42 credit hours attempted for each semester;

1-43 (4) complete at least 30 semester credit hours per  
1-44 academic year; and

1-45 (5) work no more than 15 hours a week for a business  
1-46 participating in the STEM program.

1-47 Sec. 61.9794. ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION. (a) To qualify as an  
1-48 eligible institution under this subchapter, an institution must:

1-49 (1) be a public junior college or public technical  
1-50 institute;

1-51 (2) admit at least 50 students into a STEM program each  
1-52 academic year; and

1-53 (3) develop partnerships with business and industry  
1-54 to:

1-55 (A) identify local employment needs in Science,  
1-56 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields; and

1-57 (B) provide part-time employment for students  
1-58 enrolled in a STEM program.

1-59 (b) To maintain eligibility, beginning with the second year  
1-60 following implementation of a scholarship program under this  
1-61 subchapter, an institution must demonstrate to the board that at  
1-62 least 70 percent of the institution's T-STEM Challenge Scholarship  
1-63 graduates, within three months after graduation, are:

2-1 (1) employed by a business in a Science, Technology,  
2-2 Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) field; or

2-3 (2) enrolled in upper-division courses leading to a  
2-4 baccalaureate degree in a Science, Technology, Engineering, and  
2-5 Mathematics (STEM) field.

2-6 Sec. 61.9795. AMOUNT; FUNDING. (a) Subject to available  
2-7 funding, the board shall award scholarships, with at least 50  
2-8 percent of the amount awarded from private funds.

2-9 (b) An eligible student may receive a scholarship awarded  
2-10 under this subchapter for not more than two academic years.

2-11 (c) The board may use any available revenue, including  
2-12 legislative appropriations, and may solicit and accept gifts and  
2-13 grants for purposes of this subchapter.

2-14 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
2-15 shall award scholarships under Subchapter GG, Chapter 61, Education  
2-16 Code, as added by this Act, beginning with the 2011-2012 academic  
2-17 year. The coordinating board shall adopt the rules required by that  
2-18 subchapter as soon as practicable after this Act takes effect.

2-19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

2-20 \* \* \* \* \*