

By: Patrick

S.B. No. 38

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state savings and government efficiency achieved through a taxpayer savings grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 42, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. TAXPAYER SAVINGS GRANTS

Sec. 42.501. TAXPAYER SAVINGS GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "eligible student" means a school-age child who resides in the state and who:

(1) is entering kindergarten or first grade;

(2) attended a public school for all of the academic year immediately preceding initial participation in the Taxpayer Savings Grant Program; or

(3) participated in the program in a preceding academic year.

(b) A parent or legal guardian of an eligible student who agrees to accept reimbursement in an amount that is less than the state average amount of maintenance and operations expenditures per student may receive reimbursement from the state for the tuition paid for the enrollment of the eligible student at a private school in an amount that is the lesser of:

(1) the tuition paid; or

(2) 60 percent of the state average maintenance and

1 operations expenditures per student.

2 (c) Money from the available school fund and federal funds
3 may not be used for reimbursement under this section.

4 (d) A private school voluntarily selected by a parent for
5 the parent's child to attend, with or without governmental
6 assistance, may not be required to comply with any state law or rule
7 governing the school's educational program that was not in effect
8 on January 1, 2013.

9 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable, but not later than the
10 45th day after the effective date of this Act, the comptroller, in
11 coordination with the commissioner of education, shall adopt rules
12 to implement the Taxpayer Savings Grant Program under Section
13 42.501, Education Code, as added by this Act, including rules to
14 prevent fraud in financial transactions under the program and to
15 determine the net savings resulting from implementation of the
16 program. The rules must provide for all payments required for a
17 fiscal year, including any payments resulting from a financial
18 reconciliation process for the fiscal year, to be paid not later
19 than the end of the first month following the end of the fiscal
20 year.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013, if it
22 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
23 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
24 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for effect on that
25 date, this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
26 legislative session.