

By: Creighton, Fallon, et al.

H.B. No. 882

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, 2013, 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, 2013. Beginning September 1, 2014, 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, 2014. This subsection expires October 1, 2014.

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:

8           (1) the name of the credit card issuer;

9           (2) the credit card number;

10          (3) the name of the person to whom the card is issued;

11          (4) the day of the month on which each transaction  
12 shown was made; and

13          (5) the expiration date of the credit card.

14          (d) A school district shall:

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

19           (2) maintain the listing of a credit card transaction  
20 on the district's Internet website until the second anniversary of  
21 the date of the transaction.

22          (e) A school district shall post on the district's Internet  
23 website the first monthly listing of credit card transactions by  
24 listing each transaction on the first monthly statement the  
25 district receives that covers a billing period that ends after  
26 August 1, 2013. This subsection expires December 1, 2013.

27          Sec. 44.104. POSTING OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

1 INFORMATION. (a) In this section:

2 (1) "Campus administrator" means an employee whose  
3 primary duties relate to the administration of an individual  
4 campus. The term includes a principal, counselor, school nurse,  
5 librarian, and campus secretary.

6 (2) "Compensation" means salaries, wages, and  
7 employment stipends.

8 (3) "District administrator" means an employee whose  
9 primary duties relate to the administration of a school district  
10 rather than to an individual campus.

11 (4) "Support staff" means an employee whose primary  
12 duty is to provide a support role for facility maintenance or  
13 service to faculty or students.

14 (5) "Teacher" means an employee whose primary duty is  
15 teaching students. The term includes a physical education  
16 instructor or a coach of an extracurricular activity.

17 (b) Not later than the 30th day after the date the agency  
18 posts the information submitted by the district under the Public  
19 Education Information Management System (PEIMS), a school district  
20 shall post on the district's Internet website a listing of the total  
21 amounts budgeted for district employees' compensation for the  
22 school year, grouped by the following employee categories:

23 (1) campus administrator;

24 (2) district administrator;

25 (3) support staff; and

26 (4) teacher.

27 (c) For each employee category 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 (e) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary  
9 concerning placing employees in categories under this section.

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

14 (b) A school district shall:

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

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

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

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.