

By: J. Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 2531

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of money in the spaceport trust fund for educational programs related to the aerospace industry.

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

SECTION 1. Section 481.0069, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(d) Money in the spaceport trust fund may not be spent unless the office certifies to the comptroller:

(1) that:

(A) [~~(1)~~] a viable business entity has been established that:

(i) [~~(A)~~] has a business plan that demonstrates that the entity has available the financial, managerial, and technical expertise and capability necessary to launch and land a reusable launch vehicle; and

(ii) [~~(B)~~] has committed to locating its facilities at a spaceport in this state;

(B) [~~(2)~~] a development corporation for spaceport facilities created under Chapter 507, Local Government Code, has established a development plan for the spaceport project and has secured at least 90 percent of the funding required for the project; and

(C) [~~(3)~~] the spaceport or launch operator has

obtained the appropriate Federal Aviation Administration license;
or

(2) that the money will be used to pay for educational programs described by Subsection (e)(2).

(e) Money in the spaceport trust fund may be used only:

(1) to pay expenditures for the development of infrastructure necessary or useful for establishing a spaceport; or

(2) to pay for educational programs related to the aerospace industry, including:

(A) science, technology, engineering, and mathematics courses designed to introduce middle school and high school students to the aerospace industry; and

(B) science and technology competitions, including science fairs and robotics competitions.

(e-1) The office may contract with a development corporation for spaceport facilities for the infrastructure development.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.