

By: Martinez Fischer

H.B. No. 3721

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to facilitation by the state of refinancing of school district debt.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 46, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 46.062 to read as follows:

Sec. 46.062. STATE-FACILITATED MECHANISM FOR REFINANCING.

(a) To the extent authorized by law, the commissioner, attorney general, and executive director of the Texas Public Finance Authority shall develop and implement mechanisms to assist school districts in refinancing school district debt.

(b) If the commissioner, attorney general, and executive director of the Texas Public Finance Authority determine that insufficient legal authority exists to permit implementation of an effective mechanism for the state to assist in refinancing of school district debt, the commissioner, attorney general, and executive director shall develop specific recommendations for statutory changes that would permit implementation of an effective mechanism.

(c) In performing the duties imposed by this section, the commissioner, attorney general, and executive director of the Texas Public Finance Authority shall seek input from members of the public with expertise regarding school district and state financing mechanisms.

1 (d) Not later than September 1, 2014, the commissioner,
2 attorney general, and executive director of the Texas Public
3 Finance Authority shall submit a joint report to the governor,
4 lieutenant governor, and members of the legislature that identifies
5 any mechanisms developed and implemented under Subsection (a) and
6 any recommendations for statutory changes developed under
7 Subsection (b).

8 (e) This section expires September 1, 2015.

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