

By: Lucio, Seliger, Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to business participation in supporting early college high schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.908, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A student participating in the program is entitled to the benefits of the Foundation School Program in proportion to the amount of time spent by the student on high school courses, in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner, while completing the course of study established by the applicable articulation agreement under Subsection (b)(3). ~~The commissioner may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source, including private and nonprofit organizations, to pay any costs of the program not covered by the student's Foundation School Program benefits.~~

(d) The commissioner may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source, including private and nonprofit organizations. Private and nonprofit organizations that contribute to the fund shall receive an award under Section 7.113, Education Code.

(e) The commissioner shall collaborate with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop and implement a strategic plan. The plan must include:

1           (1) strategies to increase private industry  
2 participation; and

3           (2) incentives for businesses and nonprofits that  
4 choose to make donations and work with early college high schools to  
5 maximize job placement opportunities for program graduates.

6           (f) Not later than December 1, 2014, the strategic plan  
7 shall be reported to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the  
8 house of representatives, and the governor and made available on  
9 each agency's website.

10           (g) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
11 administer the program. The rules may provide for giving  
12 preference in receiving program benefits to a student who is in the  
13 first generation of the student's family to attend college and may  
14 establish other distinctions or criteria based on student need.  
15 The commissioner shall consult the Texas Higher Education  
16 Coordinating Board in administering the program. The Texas Higher  
17 Education Coordinating Board may adopt rules as necessary to  
18 exercise its powers and duties under this section. The P-16 Council  
19 may make recommendations, including recommendations for rules,  
20 concerning administration of the program.

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