

By: Huffines

S.B. No. 1178

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to an interim study on an education savings account  
3 program.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "agency" means the Texas  
6 Education Agency.

7 (b) The agency shall conduct an interim study regarding the  
8 implementation of an education savings account program. The study  
9 must evaluate:

10 (1) best practices in implementing an education  
11 savings account program;

12 (2) the experiences of other states that have  
13 implemented similar programs;

14 (3) the populations that might be served by the  
15 program;

16 (4) potential student eligibility guidelines for  
17 participation in the program;

18 (5) potential guidelines for the voluntary  
19 participation of private schools in the program;

20 (6) methods of funding for the program;

21 (7) which expenses to include as qualified educational  
22 expenses under the program;

23 (8) whether to preapprove certain vendors for  
24 participation in the program;

1           (9) potential academic and financial accountability  
2 measures for the program; and

3           (10) methods of contracting between the state and one  
4 or more financial institutions for the provision and maintenance of  
5 the accounts.

6           (c) In conducting the study, the agency shall consult with  
7 stakeholders and national subject matter experts, including  
8 individuals who have assisted in implementing similar programs in  
9 other states.

10          (d) The agency may accept any gifts, grants, or donations  
11 from any source to conduct the study under this section.

12          (e) Not later than November 1, 2016, the agency shall submit  
13 a report on the findings of the study to the lieutenant governor,  
14 speaker of the house of representatives, and members of the  
15 legislature. The report must include any recommendations for  
16 implementation of an education savings account program from  
17 individuals who have assisted in implementing similar programs in  
18 other states.

19          SECTION 2. This Act expires September 1, 2017.

20          SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.