

1-1 By: Huffines S.B. No. 1178
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2015; March 17, 2015, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; May 5, 2015,
 1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 3; May 5, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Taylor of Galveston	X			
1-8 Lucio	X			
1-9 Bettencourt	X			
1-10 Campbell	X			
1-11 Garcia		X		
1-12 Huffines	X			
1-13 Kolchorst	X			
1-14 Rodríguez		X		
1-15 Seliger		X		
1-16 Taylor of Collin	X			
1-17 West	X			

1-19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1178 By: Huffines

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to an interim study on an education savings account
 1-23 program.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "agency" means the Texas
 1-26 Education Agency.

1-27 (b) The agency shall conduct an interim study regarding the
 1-28 implementation of an education savings account program. The study
 1-29 must evaluate:

1-30 (1) best practices in implementing an education
 1-31 savings account program;

1-32 (2) the experiences of other states that have
 1-33 implemented similar programs;

1-34 (3) the populations that might be served by the
 1-35 program;

1-36 (4) potential student eligibility guidelines for
 1-37 participation in the program;

1-38 (5) potential guidelines for the voluntary
 1-39 participation of private schools in the program;

1-40 (6) methods of funding for the program;

1-41 (7) which expenses to include as qualified educational
 1-42 expenses under the program;

1-43 (8) whether to preapprove certain vendors for
 1-44 participation in the program;

1-45 (9) potential academic and financial accountability
 1-46 measures for the program; and

1-47 (10) methods of contracting between the state and one
 1-48 or more financial institutions for the provision and maintenance of
 1-49 the accounts.

1-50 (c) In conducting the study, the agency shall consult with
 1-51 stakeholders and national subject matter experts, including
 1-52 individuals who have assisted in implementing similar programs in
 1-53 other states.

1-54 (d) The agency may accept any gifts, grants, or donations
 1-55 from any source to conduct the study under this section.

1-56 (e) Not later than November 1, 2016, the agency shall submit
 1-57 a report on the findings of the study to the lieutenant governor,
 1-58 speaker of the house of representatives, and members of the
 1-59 legislature. The report must include any recommendations for
 1-60 implementation of an education savings account program from

2-1 individuals who have assisted in implementing similar programs in
2-2 other states.

2-3 SECTION 2. This Act expires September 1, 2017.

2-4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-8 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

2-9

* * * * *