

By: Taylor of Galveston

S.B. No. 1659

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the commissioner of education accepting contributions
3 for the public school system, adopting rules regarding grant
4 compliance, and establishing grants for high-quality educational
5 programs.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 7.055(b), Education Code, is amended by
8 adding Subdivision (42) to read as follows:

9 (42) The commissioner may accept a gift, grant,
10 donation, or other contribution on behalf of the public school
11 system or agency and, unless otherwise specified by the donor, may
12 use the contribution in the manner the commissioner determines.

13 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 7, Education Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 7.067 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 7.067. GRANT COMPLIANCE. (a) The commissioner may:

16 (1) adopt rules to ensure that recipients of
17 state-funded grants administered by the commissioner or the agency
18 are in compliance with grant requirements; and

19 (2) require a grant recipient to provide information
20 to the agency detailing grant compliance.

21 (b) The commissioner may direct the agency to make a site
22 visit to a grant recipient to review the recipient's compliance
23 with grant requirements. A review conducted under this subsection
24 is not subject to Section 7.028 or 39.056.

1 (c) If the commissioner finds that a grant recipient is not
2 in compliance with grant requirements, the commissioner may:

3 (1) seek the remittance of the grant funds; and

4 (2) withhold funding authorized under Section 12.106
5 or Chapter 42 or any other state funding in an amount sufficient to
6 recover the grant funds provided to the recipient.

7 (d) A decision of the commissioner regarding grant
8 compliance, including a decision to withhold funding under
9 Subsection (c), is final and may not be appealed.

10 SECTION 3. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
11 amended by adding Section 29.924 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 29.924. HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GRANTS. (a)
13 The commissioner shall establish a competitive grant program to
14 assist school districts and open-enrollment charter schools in
15 implementing high-quality educational programs.

16 (b) The commissioner may adopt rules on the use of grant
17 funds under this section, including rules determining eligibility,
18 award amount, and any restrictions. The commissioner may authorize
19 a grant recipient or a tax-exempt organization contracting with the
20 grant recipient to use grant funds for facility purposes and
21 performance-based incentives.

22 (c) The commissioner may make grants under this section
23 using funds from any available source, including gifts, grants, and
24 donations accepted by the commissioner. A decision of the
25 commissioner concerning the amount of funds available for a grant
26 is final and may not be appealed.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.