

1-1 By: Taylor of Galveston S.B. No. 1659
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 9, 2017; March 22, 2017, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; May 1, 2017,
 1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 1, 2017, 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 Hall	X			
1-12 Huffines	X			
1-13 Hughes	X			
1-14 Seliger	X			
1-15 Taylor of Collin	X			
1-16 Uresti	X			
1-17 West	X			

1-19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1659 By: Taylor of Galveston

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

1-22 relating to the commissioner of education accepting contributions
 1-23 for the public school system, adopting rules regarding grant
 1-24 compliance, and establishing grants for high-quality educational
 1-25 programs.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 SECTION 1. Section 7.055(b), Education Code, is amended by
 1-28 adding Subdivision (42) to read as follows:

1-29 (42) The commissioner may accept a gift, grant,
 1-30 donation, or other contribution on behalf of the public school
 1-31 system or agency and, unless otherwise specified by the donor, may
 1-32 use the contribution in the manner the commissioner determines.

1-33 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 7, Education Code, is
 1-34 amended by adding Section 7.067 to read as follows:

1-35 Sec. 7.067. GRANT COMPLIANCE. (a) The commissioner may:

1-36 (1) adopt rules to ensure that recipients of
 1-37 state-funded grants administered by the commissioner or the agency
 1-38 are in compliance with grant requirements; and

1-39 (2) require a grant recipient to provide information
 1-40 to the agency detailing grant compliance.

1-41 (b) The commissioner may direct the agency to make a site
 1-42 visit to a grant recipient to review the recipient's compliance
 1-43 with grant requirements. A review conducted under this subsection
 1-44 is not subject to Section 7.028 or 39.056.

1-45 (c) If the commissioner finds that a grant recipient is not
 1-46 in compliance with grant requirements, the commissioner may:

1-47 (1) seek the remittance of the grant funds; and

1-48 (2) withhold funding authorized under Section 12.106
 1-49 or Chapter 42 or any other state funding in an amount sufficient to
 1-50 recover the grant funds provided to the recipient.

1-51 (d) A decision of the commissioner regarding grant
 1-52 compliance, including a decision to withhold funding under
 1-53 Subsection (c), is final and may not be appealed.

1-54 SECTION 3. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
 1-55 amended by adding Section 29.924 to read as follows:

1-56 Sec. 29.924. HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GRANTS.

1-57 (a) The commissioner shall establish a competitive grant program
 1-58 to assist school districts and open-enrollment charter schools in
 1-59 implementing high-quality educational programs.

1-60 (b) The commissioner may adopt rules on the use of grant

2-1 funds under this section, including rules determining eligibility,
2-2 award amount, and any restrictions. The commissioner may authorize
2-3 a grant recipient or a tax-exempt organization contracting with the
2-4 grant recipient to use grant funds for facility purposes and
2-5 performance-based incentives.

2-6 (c) The commissioner may make grants under this section
2-7 using funds from available sources, including gifts, grants, and
2-8 donations accepted by the commissioner. A decision of the
2-9 commissioner concerning the amount of funds available for a grant
2-10 is final and may not be appealed.

2-11 SECTION 4. The commissioner of education is required to
2-12 implement this Act only if the legislature appropriates money
2-13 specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not
2-14 appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the commissioner
2-15 of education may, but is not required to, implement this Act using
2-16 other appropriations available for the purpose.

2-17 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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