

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 2123

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the creation of a pilot program to allow high schools in  
3 certain counties to connect to high-speed fiber-optic networks.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 7, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 7.068 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 7.068. PILOT PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL FIBER-OPTIC  
8 CONNECTIONS. Using funds appropriated or otherwise available for  
9 that purpose, the commissioner shall create and administer a pilot  
10 program to enable at least 14 high schools in counties that border  
11 the Gulf of Mexico or that are located on an international border to  
12 build infrastructure to connect to existing high-speed fiber-optic  
13 networks. The commissioner may enter into contracts or agreements  
14 with public or private institutions of higher education or public  
15 or private entities as necessary to allow for the implementation of  
16 the pilot program.

17 SECTION 2. As soon as possible after the effective date of  
18 this Act, the commissioner of education shall create the pilot  
19 program under Section 7.068, Education Code, as added by this Act,  
20 and shall begin entering into contracts or agreements with  
21 appropriate entities to implement the pilot program.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.