86R9795 SOS-D

By:  Talarico H.B. No. 3008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a civic education project fund for supporting student civic education projects and educator professional development related to those projects.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.919 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.919.  CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT FUND. (a) In this section:

(1)  "Civic education project" means a project that includes the concepts of civic engagement and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and may combine out-of-school service experience with academic study.

(2)  "Fund" means the civic education project fund.

(b)  The civic education project fund is an account in the general revenue fund administered by the commissioner.

(c)  The fund consists of:

(1)  gifts, grants, or donations to the fund; and

(2)  money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by or at the direction of the legislature.

(d)  The fund is established for the purpose of:

(1)  providing public school students enrolled in the fourth or a higher grade who are economically disadvantaged, as determined by the commissioner, the opportunity to complete a civic education project; and

(2)  supporting educator professional development to assist educators in preparing students described by Subdivision (1) to successfully complete a civic education project.

(e)  Money in the fund may be used only as provided by this section.

(f)  In allocating money from the fund, the commissioner may give priority to a school district in which at least 40 percent of the students enrolled in the district on September 1 of the school year are economically disadvantaged, as determined by the commissioner.

(g)  The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 2.  The fund established under Section 29.919, Education Code, as added by this Act, may be used for the purposes described by Subsection (d) of that section beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.