

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 884

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Texas Emergency Aid for Public Postsecondary Students (TEAPPS) grant program for students at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 56, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D-1. TEXAS EMERGENCY AID FOR PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS (TEAPPS) GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 56.061. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "Program" means the Texas Emergency Aid for Public Postsecondary Students (TEAPPS) grant program established under this subchapter.

Sec. 56.062. PROGRAM PURPOSE. The purpose of the Texas Emergency Aid for Public Postsecondary Students (TEAPPS) grant program is to enable eligible institutions of higher education to provide emergency aid grants to assist students in dealing with unexpected or unforeseen expenses, events, or circumstances that could cause a loss of momentum toward academic success.

Sec. 56.063. ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM. (a) The coordinating board shall administer the program and adopt any rules necessary to implement the program. The coordinating board shall

1 consult with the student financial aid officers of institutions of
2 higher education in developing rules under this subchapter.

3 (b) The coordinating board shall develop a competitive
4 application process to award grants to eligible institutions of
5 higher education under the program.

6 Sec. 56.064. GRANT ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive a
7 grant under the program, an institution of higher education must
8 offer at least one associate's or baccalaureate degree program and:

9 (1) have a student enrollment in which at least 30
10 percent of students:

11 (A) receive a Pell grant; or

12 (B) are members of an underrepresented minority
13 population, as determined by the coordinating board; or

14 (2) be designated by the United States Department of
15 Education as a Minority Serving Institution (MSI).

16 Sec. 56.065. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. An institution of
17 higher education awarded a grant under this subchapter must:

18 (1) adopt a policy that clearly defines "emergency"
19 for purposes of providing emergency aid to students under Section
20 56.067;

21 (2) use an additional amount of funds at least equal to
22 10 percent of the grant amount awarded under the program for
23 purposes of providing emergency aid to students under Section
24 56.067;

25 (3) partner with at least one state agency and at least
26 three nonprofit, community-based organizations or other private
27 entities to offer to students receiving emergency aid under Section

1 56.067 wraparound support services, including assistance with
2 food, housing, transportation, or health care; and

3 (4) implement basic components and adhere to best
4 practices for successful emergency aid programs, as determined by
5 the coordinating board.

6 Sec. 56.066. GRANT FUNDING; AMOUNT OF GRANT. (a) The total
7 amount of money appropriated for an academic year to award grants to
8 institutions of higher education under the program may not exceed
9 \$2 million.

10 (b) The amount of a grant awarded to an institution of
11 higher education under the program may not exceed \$50,000 per
12 academic year.

13 (c) The coordinating board may solicit and accept gifts,
14 grants, and donations from any public or private source for the
15 program.

16 Sec. 56.067. GRANT USE. (a) An institution of higher
17 education that receives a grant under the program may use grant
18 funds only to provide emergency aid to students enrolled at the
19 institution in accordance with this subchapter.

20 (b) The amount of emergency aid awarded to a student under
21 this section may not exceed \$1,000 per award.

22 (c) An institution of higher education that receives a grant
23 under the program must establish an application process for
24 students enrolled at the institution to apply for emergency aid
25 awarded under this section. The application process must:

26 (1) allow students to apply electronically;

27 (2) be offered in both English and Spanish; and

1 (3) require the institution to:

2 (A) conclude review of an application not later
3 than 48 hours after receipt of the application; and

4 (B) disburse any funds awarded not later than 48
5 hours after concluding review of an application.

6 (d) Each institution of higher education that receives a
7 grant under the program shall:

8 (1) inform students enrolled at the institution of the
9 availability of emergency aid under this section in the manner
10 required by the coordinating board; and

11 (2) collect and maintain data regarding the awarding
12 of emergency aid under this section.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating
14 Board shall adopt rules to administer Subchapter D-1, Chapter 56,
15 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after
16 the effective date of this Act.

17 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
18 begin awarding grants under Subchapter D-1, Chapter 56, Education
19 Code, as added by this Act, for the first academic year for which
20 money is appropriated for that purpose, except that the
21 coordinating board may not award grants under that subchapter for
22 an academic year before the 2020-2021 academic year.

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