

1-1 By: Miles S.B. No. 1284
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 28, 2019; March 7, 2019,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education;
 1-4 April 30, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 2; April 30, 2019,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8 Taylor	X			
1-9 Lucio			X	
1-10 Bettencourt	X			
1-11 Campbell	X			
1-12 Fallon		X		
1-13 Hall		X		
1-14 Hughes	X			
1-15 Paxton	X			
1-16 Powell	X			
1-17 Watson	X			
1-18 West	X			

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1284 By: Powell

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to a competitive grant program to fund promotion of early
 1-24 literacy programs in certain communities in this state.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Chapter 73, Education Code, is amended by adding
 1-27 Subchapter J to read as follows:

1-28 SUBCHAPTER J. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO PROMOTE EARLY LITERACY

1-29 Sec. 73.701. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-30 (1) "Competitive grant program" means the competitive
 1-31 grant program to promote early literacy established under this
 1-32 subchapter.

1-33 (2) "Health care practitioner" has the meaning
 1-34 assigned by Section 112.001, Occupations Code.

1-35 (3) "Health science center" means The University of
 1-36 Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

1-37 (4) "Literacy program" means a program to promote
 1-38 early literacy.

1-39 Sec. 73.702. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO
 1-40 PROMOTE EARLY LITERACY. (a) Subject to Section 73.709, The
 1-41 University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston shall
 1-42 establish a competitive grant program to promote early literacy
 1-43 through which the health science center will award grants for the
 1-44 implementation of literacy programs, or the expansion of existing
 1-45 programs, and for the operation of those programs for a period of
 1-46 not less than two years.

1-47 (b) The health science center shall award grants under the
 1-48 program to applicants, including applicants operating existing
 1-49 programs, in a manner that ensures that the literacy programs
 1-50 collectively operate in multiple communities that are
 1-51 geographically distributed throughout this state.

1-52 Sec. 73.703. LITERACY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. A literacy
 1-53 program funded through a grant awarded under this subchapter must:

1-54 (1) consult and use as a guide the program model
 1-55 developed by the Reach Out and Read National Center, including any
 1-56 clinical, programmatic, and data collection requirements of that
 1-57 model;

1-58 (2) require that health care practitioners who
 1-59 participate in the literacy program:

1-60 (A) in conjunction with performing well-child

2-1 examinations, provide books to children and encourage parents to
 2-2 read to their children to develop preliteracy skills;

2-3 (B) maintain waiting rooms that encourage
 2-4 children to read; and

2-5 (C) provide services designed to increase the
 2-6 school readiness of children receiving program services; and

2-7 (3) partner with local adult literacy providers to
 2-8 encourage parent literacy in appropriate circumstances.

2-9 Sec. 73.704. APPLICATION. (a) A public or private entity,
 2-10 including a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of
 2-11 this state, may apply for a grant under this subchapter.

2-12 (b) To apply for a grant, an applicant must submit a written
 2-13 application to the health science center on a form prescribed by the
 2-14 health science center in consultation with the Reach Out and Read
 2-15 National Center.

2-16 Sec. 73.705. LITERACY PROGRAM GUIDELINES. The health
 2-17 science center, with the assistance of the Reach Out and Read
 2-18 National Center, shall publish guidelines for the literacy programs
 2-19 funded under this subchapter. The guidelines may follow the Reach
 2-20 Out and Read national program model standards and guidelines that
 2-21 have been tested and replicated in multiple communities.

2-22 Sec. 73.706. USE OF PROGRAM MONEY. (a) In addition to
 2-23 awarding grants under this subchapter, the health science center
 2-24 may use program money to:

2-25 (1) administer the competitive grant program; and

2-26 (2) purchase or contract to purchase discounted books
 2-27 for use by grant recipients.

2-28 (b) A grant recipient may use grant money awarded under this
 2-29 subchapter only to cover costs related to implementing or expanding
 2-30 and operating a literacy program, including costs related to:

2-31 (1) administering the literacy program;

2-32 (2) training and managing health care practitioners
 2-33 who volunteer to participate in the literacy program; and

2-34 (3) purchasing or contracting to purchase discounted
 2-35 books for use in the literacy program.

2-36 Sec. 73.707. PROGRAM EVALUATION; BIENNIAL COMMITTEE
 2-37 REPORTS. (a) The health science center, with the assistance of
 2-38 the Reach Out and Read National Center, shall prepare and submit a
 2-39 biennial report, not later than December 1 of each even-numbered
 2-40 year, to the senate committee on education, or its successor, and
 2-41 the house public education committee, or its successor, regarding
 2-42 the grants awarded during the preceding two state fiscal years.

2-43 (b) The report required under Subsection (a) must include:

2-44 (1) the number of health care practitioners who
 2-45 participate in the program;

2-46 (2) the number of children receiving literacy program
 2-47 services as a result of the program; and

2-48 (3) the amount of each grant awarded to a health care
 2-49 practitioner under the program.

2-50 (c) On request, each grant recipient shall timely collect
 2-51 and provide data and any other information required by the health
 2-52 science center to monitor and evaluate the program, including
 2-53 recipient participation in the program, and to prepare the report
 2-54 required by this section.

2-55 Sec. 73.708. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING. (a) The
 2-56 health science center shall actively seek and apply for any
 2-57 available federal money to assist in financing the competitive
 2-58 grant program established under this subchapter.

2-59 (b) To assist in financing the competitive grant program,
 2-60 the health science center may:

2-61 (1) use appropriated money from the state government;
 2-62 and

2-63 (2) accept gifts, donations, grants of money, and
 2-64 in-kind contributions from the federal government, local
 2-65 governments, private corporations, or other persons, provided that
 2-66 the health science center implements the program in accordance with
 2-67 the contingency under Section 73.709.

2-68 Sec. 73.709. APPROPRIATION CONTINGENCY. The health science
 2-69 center is required to implement a provision of this subchapter only

3-1 if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that
3-2 purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money
3-3 specifically for that purpose, the health science center may, but
3-4 is not required to, implement the provision using other money
3-5 available to the health science center for that purpose.

3-6 SECTION 2. The University of Texas Health Science Center at
3-7 Houston shall:

3-8 (1) as soon as practicable, apply for any available
3-9 federal money to assist in financing the competitive grant program
3-10 under Subchapter J, Chapter 73, Education Code, as added by this
3-11 Act, as required by Section 73.708, Education Code, as added by this
3-12 Act; and

3-13 (2) not later than December 1, 2022, submit a report to
3-14 the senate committee on education, or its successor, and the house
3-15 public education committee, or its successor, regarding the
3-16 implementation and status of the competitive grant program under
3-17 Subchapter J, Chapter 73, Education Code, as added by this Act.

3-18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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