

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 169

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a financial assistance program for open-enrollment charter school facilities.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 12, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 12.1063 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.1063. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FACILITIES. (a) Using funds appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the commissioner shall develop and implement a program under which the state provides financial assistance to a charter holder seeking to construct or acquire adequate facilities for student instruction.

(b) The program may include:

(1) the provision of forgivable loans, including loans for a period of not more than 25 years structured so that each year that the charter holder successfully operates the open-enrollment charter school, the charter holder is released from the obligation to pay that year's portion of the loan;

(2) a loan guarantee process for a charter holder that has successfully operated an open-enrollment charter school for at least five years; and

(3) the provision of assistance to charter holders in obtaining loans for facilities directly from private lenders.

(c) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to

1 implement this section.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect December 1, 2021.