

By: Patterson

H.B. No. 538

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the removal of restrictions on funding and payment of costs for certain full-time online educational programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 26.0031(c-1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may decline to pay the cost for a student of more than three yearlong electronic courses, or the equivalent, during any school year. This subsection does not:

(1) limit the ability of the student to enroll in additional electronic courses at the student's cost; or

(2) apply to a student enrolled in a full-time online program [~~that was operating on January 1, 2013~~].

SECTION 2. Section 30A.153(a-1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a), a school district or open-enrollment charter school is limited to the funding described by that subsection for a student's enrollment in not more than three electronic courses during any school year, unless the student is enrolled in a full-time online program [~~that was operating on January 1, 2013~~].

SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply to electronic courses taken through the state virtual school network

1 beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.