

By: White

H.B. No. 557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of the Science, Technology,
3 Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship Program for
4 certain students at public institutions of higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
7 Subchapter LL to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER LL. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS
9 (STEM) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

10 Sec. 61.9851. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "STEM
11 program" means a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics
12 program.

13 Sec. 61.9852. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. (a) For purposes of
14 Section 49-g(c-3), Article III, Texas Constitution, the Science,
15 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship
16 Program is established to provide eligible students with
17 scholarships to attend a STEM program at an institution of higher
18 education.

19 (b) The board shall establish and administer the
20 scholarship program in accordance with this subchapter and board
21 rules.

22 Sec. 61.9853. ELIGIBILITY. (a) To receive an initial
23 scholarship under this subchapter, a student must:

24 (1) be a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the

1 United States;

2 (2) be a Texas resident under Section 54.052;

3 (3) enroll in a STEM program at an institution of
4 higher education; and

5 (4) comply with any other eligibility requirements
6 established by board rule.

7 (b) To continue to qualify for a scholarship under this
8 subchapter, a student must:

9 (1) remain enrolled in a STEM program at an
10 institution of higher education;

11 (2) make satisfactory academic progress as determined
12 by board rule; and

13 (3) comply with any other eligibility requirements
14 established by board rule.

15 Sec. 61.9854. AMOUNT; FUNDING. From funds retained as
16 general revenue under Section 49-g(c-3), Article III, Texas
17 Constitution, and appropriated for that purpose and from any other
18 available funds, the board shall award scholarships in an amount
19 determined by board rule to eligible students under the scholarship
20 program.

21 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
22 shall begin awarding scholarships under Subchapter LL, Chapter 61,
23 Education Code, as added by this Act, for the first academic year
24 for which money is appropriated for that purpose, except that the
25 coordinating board may not award scholarships under that subchapter
26 for an academic year before the 2023-2024 academic year.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2022, but only

1 if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 87th Legislature,
2 Regular Session, 2021, to reduce the allocation of certain general
3 revenue to the economic stabilization fund and to use that revenue
4 for certain science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
5 (STEM) scholarships is approved by the voters. If that
6 constitutional amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act
7 has no effect.