A BILL TO BEENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a mobile Internet access hotspot grant
program to provide grants to facilitate distance learning for
public school students.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 32, Education Code, is amended by adding
Subchapter H to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER H. MOBILE INTERNET ACCESS HOTSPOT GRANTS PROGRAM

Sec. 32.321. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. (a) To the extent
funds are available for the purpose, the agency shall establish a
mobile Internet access hotspot grant program to provide grants to
eligible school districts to facilitate distance learning.

(b) The agency shall develop:

(1) a method to prioritize grants to serve the highest
number of low-income students;

(2) eligibility criteria for school districts to
receive grants under the program; and

(3) an annual application process for school districts
to apply to receive grants under the program.

Sec. 32.322. FUNDING. The commissioner:

(1) may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
donations from any public or private source, person, or group to
implement and administer this subchapter; and

(2) shall maximize the funding by leveraging federal,
state, local, and private money to provide grants under the
program.

Sec. 32.323. USE OF GRANT FUNDS. (a) A school district may
use money received from a grant under this subchapter to facilitate
a mobile Internet access hotspot program that provides hotspot
devices to:

(1) students enrolled in the district; or

(2) the parents or guardians of students enrolled in
the district.

(b) A device provided under a mobile Internet access hotspot
program established under Subsection (a) must:

(1) be portable;

(2) not be subject to a data limitation; and

(3) comply with all applicable state and federal laws
regarding online privacy.

Sec. 32.324. REPORTS TO LEGISLATURE. The agency shall
submit a report to the legislature that includes data and analysis
regarding the efficacy of the program under this subchapter and any
associated recommendations:

(1) not later than December 1, 2023; and

(2) not later than December 1, 2027.

Sec. 32.325. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires September
1, 2028.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2022-2023
school year.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.