

By: Blanco

S.B. No. 1303

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the efficient use and generation of electricity by public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 390.002(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Projects that may be considered for a grant under the program include:

(1) diesel oxidation catalyts for school buses built before 1994;

(2) diesel particulate filters for school buses built from 1994 to 1998;

(3) the purchase and use of emission-reducing add-on equipment for school buses, including devices that reduce crankcase emissions;

(4) the use of qualifying fuel;

(5) other technologies that the commission finds will bring about significant emissions reductions; ~~and~~

(6) the replacement or conversion of a [pre-2007 model year] school bus eligible for replacement or conversion under Section 390.004; and

(7) the installation of charging infrastructure for electric school buses.

SECTION 2. Section 390.003, Health and Safety Code, is

1 amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

2 (a-1) A private entity that leases school buses to a school
3 district or provides school bus services or supporting
4 infrastructure to a school district by contract may apply for and
5 receive a grant under the program.

6 SECTION 3. Section 390.004, Health and Safety Code, is
7 amended by amending Subsections (a), (c), and (d) and adding
8 Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

9 (a) The commission by rule shall establish criteria for
10 setting priorities for projects eligible to receive grants under
11 this chapter. Except as provided by Subsection (a-1), the [~~The~~]
12 commission shall review and may modify the criteria and priorities
13 as appropriate.

14 (a-1) The criteria must prioritize projects that achieve
15 the greatest reductions in diesel exhaust, especially particulate
16 matter.

17 (a-2) The commission shall ensure that at least 75 percent
18 of the money issued for grants under this chapter is issued for
19 projects to purchase electric buses or to convert diesel buses into
20 electric buses.

21 (c) A school bus proposed for replacement must:

22 (1) be of model year 2006 or earlier if the bus will be
23 replaced with a combustion engine bus;

24 (1-a) be of a model year that is at least nine years
25 older than the year in which the grant application is submitted or
26 have an odometer reading at least 200,000 miles if the bus will be
27 replaced with an electric bus;

1 (2) have been owned and operated by the applicant for
2 at least the two years before submission of the grant application;

3 (3) be in good operational condition; and

4 (4) be currently used on a regular, daily route to and
5 from a school.

6 (d) A school bus proposed for purchase to replace a
7 [~~pre-2007 model year~~] school bus described by Subsection (c) must
8 be of the current model year or the year before the current model
9 year at the time of submission of the grant application.

10 SECTION 4. Section 390.005(a), Health and Safety Code, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (a) A recipient of a grant under this chapter shall use the
13 grant to pay the incremental costs of the project for which the
14 grant is made, which may include the reasonable and necessary
15 expenses incurred for the labor needed to install
16 emissions-reducing equipment or vehicle charging infrastructure.
17 The recipient may not use the grant to pay the recipient's
18 administrative expenses.

19 SECTION 5. Subchapter H, Chapter 36, Utilities Code, is
20 amended by adding Section 36.3531 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 36.3531. TIME-OF-USE RATES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. (a)
22 Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, each electric
23 utility that provides electric service to a retail customer shall
24 offer to a school district or open-enrollment charter school served
25 by the electric utility time-of-use rates to promote efficient:

26 (1) charging of electric school buses; and

27 (2) energy use in school buildings.

1 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, each
2 transmission and distribution utility in the ERCOT power region
3 shall offer to any retail electric provider in its service area that
4 serves a school district or open-enrollment charter school a rate
5 structure that allows the retail electric provider to offer
6 time-of-use rates to the district or school to promote efficient:

7 (1) charging of electric school buses; and

8 (2) energy use for school buildings.

9 (c) A regulatory authority shall provide a mechanism for
10 approving a tariff in accordance with this section.

11 SECTION 6. Chapter 35, Utilities Code, is amended by adding
12 Subchapter F to read as follows:

13 SUBCHAPTER F. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

14 Sec. 35.201. DEFINITIONS. (a) In this subchapter:

15 (1) "Distributed renewable generation" has the
16 meaning assigned by Section 39.916.

17 (2) "Electric utility" includes a municipally owned
18 utility and an electric cooperative.

19 (3) "Interconnection" means the right of a person to
20 physically connect an energy source and related equipment to an
21 electricity distribution system and the technical requirements,
22 rules, or processes required for the connection.

23 (4) "School energy source" means a source that is:

24 (A) on-site distributed renewable generation,
25 energy storage, or an electric school bus; and

26 (B) owned, leased, or used by a school district
27 or open-enrollment charter school.

1 Sec. 35.202. USE OF SCHOOL ENERGY SOURCES. (a) A school
2 district or open-enrollment charter school may contract with an
3 electric utility to:

4 (1) install make-ready infrastructure on the utility's
5 side of the meter required to facilitate interconnection of
6 electric vehicle charging equipment, including a new service
7 connection, transformer, conductor, connector, conduit, or meter;
8 and

9 (2) provide any necessary construction to comply with
10 local regulations related to the charging equipment.

11 (b) Electric utilities shall use their best efforts to:

12 (1) encourage and facilitate interconnection
13 processes for school energy sources; and

14 (2) provide information about distribution system
15 capacity and needs to market providers of on-site distributed
16 renewable generation, energy storage, and electric school buses.

17 (c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school, or
18 a person acting on behalf of a school district or open-enrollment
19 charter school, may, without registering as a power generation
20 company:

21 (1) provide distribution system grid services using a
22 school energy source or a combination of school energy sources; and

23 (2) receive appropriate compensation for electricity
24 sold under Subdivision (1).

25 (d) The independent organization certified under Section
26 39.151 for the ERCOT power region shall adopt rules or protocols to
27 allow a school district or open-enrollment charter school, or a

1 person acting on behalf of a school district or open-enrollment
2 charter school, to sell energy and ancillary services from school
3 energy sources in the wholesale market without registering as a
4 power generation company.

5 SECTION 7. The changes in law made by this Act in Chapter
6 390, Health and Safety Code, apply only to a Texas emissions
7 reduction plan grant awarded on or after the effective date of this
8 Act. A grant awarded before the effective date of this Act is
9 governed by the law in effect on the date the award was made, and the
10 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

11 SECTION 8. The changes in law made by this Act in Section
12 36.3531, Utilities Code, as added by this Act, do not require an
13 electric utility to initiate a new ratemaking proceeding. An
14 electric utility shall comply with Section 36.3531, Utilities Code,
15 as added by this Act, beginning with the electric utility's first
16 ratemaking proceeding that begins after the effective date of this
17 Act.

18 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.