

By: West

S.B. No. 1799

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the creation of a broadband Internet connectivity and  
3 broadband access grant program to facilitate instruction and  
4 learning for public school students.

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

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

8 SUBCHAPTER H. BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM

9 Sec. 32.321. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. (a) The agency  
10 shall establish a broadband Internet access grant program to  
11 provide grants to school districts for the purpose of incentivizing  
12 districts to develop unique or inventive methods for increasing  
13 broadband Internet access to facilitate instruction and learning  
14 for district students.

15 (b) A school district may apply to the commissioner to  
16 participate in the grant program. The commissioner shall develop  
17 eligibility criteria for school districts to receive grants under  
18 the program.

19 (c) The commissioner may determine the terms of a grant  
20 awarded under this section, including limits on the amount of a  
21 grant and the approved uses of grant funds.

22 Sec. 32.322. FUNDING. (a) The commissioner shall use funds  
23 appropriated or other funds available for the purpose of the grant  
24 program authorized under this subchapter.

1        (b) The commissioner may solicit and accept gifts, grants,  
2 and donations from any public or private source, including the  
3 federal government.

4        Sec. 32.323. RULES. The commissioner may adopt rules as  
5 necessary to implement this subchapter.

6        SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
7 school year.

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