

By: Patterson

H.B. No. 710

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the removal of restrictions on funding and payment of  
3 costs for certain full-time online educational programs;  
4 authorizing a fee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 30A, Education Code, is

1 amended by adding Section 30A.156 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 30A.156. PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT FEE. (a) If the agency  
3 determines that the cost of supporting the establishment of a  
4 full-time online program, including the cost of evaluating and  
5 approving electronic courses, will not be paid by the agency  
6 because funds for that purpose are not available, a school district  
7 or open-enrollment charter school that intends to operate a  
8 full-time online program may pay to the agency a one-time fee in an  
9 amount that is equal to the cost of establishing that program to  
10 ensure adequate support for that program is provided.

11 (b) The agency shall develop and publish a fee schedule for  
12 purposes of establishing a full-time online program.

13 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply to  
14 electronic courses taken through the state virtual school network  
15 beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

16 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.