

By: Campbell

S.B. No. 960

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to state savings and government efficiency achieved  
3 through a taxpayer savings grant program administered by the  
4 comptroller of public accounts.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 48.266, Education Code, is amended by  
7 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

8 (b-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), the commissioner  
9 shall adjust enrollment estimates and entitlement for each school  
10 district for each school year based on information provided by the  
11 comptroller under Section 48.351(f). This subsection expires  
12 September 1, 2028.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 48, Education Code, is amended by adding  
14 Subchapter H to read as follows:

15 SUBCHAPTER H. TAXPAYER SAVINGS GRANTS

16 Sec. 48.351. TAXPAYER SAVINGS GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this  
17 section:

18 (1) "Eligible student" means a school-age child who  
19 resides in the state and who:

20 (A) is entering kindergarten or first grade;

21 (B) attended a public school for the entire  
22 school year immediately preceding initial participation in the  
23 Taxpayer Savings Grant Program; or

24 (C) participated in the program in a preceding

1 school year.

2 (2) "Private school" means a school that:

3 (A) offers a course of instruction for elementary  
4 or secondary students;

5 (B) is not operated by a governmental entity; and

6 (C) is not a home school.

7 (b) A parent or legal guardian of an eligible student may  
8 receive reimbursement from the state for the tuition paid for the  
9 enrollment of the eligible student at a private school in an amount  
10 that is the lesser of:

11 (1) the tuition paid; or

12 (2) 60 percent of the amount of state funding per  
13 student provided under Section [12.106](#).

14 (c) Money from the available school fund and federal funds  
15 may not be used for reimbursement under this section.

16 (d) A private school voluntarily selected by a parent for  
17 the parent's child to attend, with or without governmental  
18 assistance, may not be required to comply with any state law or rule  
19 governing the school's educational program that was not in effect  
20 on January 1, 2023.

21 (e) The comptroller shall administer the program and  
22 provide reimbursement to a parent or legal guardian of an eligible  
23 student as authorized by this section.

24 (f) Not later than October 1 of each year, the comptroller  
25 shall notify the commissioner and the Legislative Budget Board of  
26 the number of eligible students likely to participate in the  
27 program, disaggregated by the school district or open-enrollment

1 charter school the eligible students would otherwise attend. Not  
2 later than March 1 of each year, the comptroller shall provide final  
3 information to the commissioner and the Legislative Budget Board  
4 regarding the number of students participating in the program,  
5 disaggregated in the same manner as the initial information.

6 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable, but not later than  
7 October 15, 2023, the comptroller, in coordination with the  
8 commissioner of education, shall adopt rules to implement the  
9 Taxpayer Savings Grant Program under Section 48.351, Education  
10 Code, as added by this Act, including rules to prevent fraud in  
11 financial transactions under the program and to determine the net  
12 savings resulting from implementation of the program. The rules  
13 must require reconciliation of payments for all grants within the  
14 same fiscal year or within the first month following the end of the  
15 fiscal year.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.