

CHAPTER 868

H.B. No. 1029

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas interactive multimedia communications fund; regulating interactive multimedia communications services and equipment.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 14, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 14.0451 to read as follows:

*Sec. 14.0451. TEXAS INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA COMMUNICATIONS FUND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM. (a) In this section:*

*(1) "Interactive multimedia communications" means real-time, two-way, interactive voice, video, and data communications conducted over networks that link geographically dispersed locations.*

*(2) "Fund" means the Texas interactive multimedia communications fund.*

*(b) The purpose of this section is to establish, as one of the demonstration programs authorized under Section 14.045 of this code, a Texas interactive multimedia communications fund to:*

*(1) provide substantially equal access for students throughout the state to instruction of high quality in all courses of study; and*

*(2) provide substantially equal access for teachers and administrators throughout the state to teaching tools of high quality and efficient management systems.*

*(c) The Texas interactive multimedia communications fund is an account in the general revenue fund.*

*(d) The Central Education Agency may receive gifts and grants for deposit to the credit of the fund.*

*(e) The Central Education Agency shall administer the fund and make annual disbursements from the fund.*

*(f) The State Board of Education by rule shall provide for:*

*(1) the administration of the fund; and*

*(2) guidelines for interactive multimedia communications services and equipment purchased with a grant under this subchapter.*

*(g) The Central Education Agency shall grant money from the fund to school districts for the acquisition of interactive multimedia communications services or equipment.*

*(h) To be eligible for a grant under Subsection (g) of this section, a school district must submit a grant application to the Central Education Agency. The application must include a plan for the use of the grant.*

*(i) The State Board of Education by rule shall adopt guidelines and procedures for the award of grants under Subsection (g) of this section.*

*(j) A grant received under Subsection (g) of this section may be used only to purchase interactive multimedia communications services or equipment.*

**SECTION 2.** Article XIV, Public Utility Regulatory Act (Article 1446c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 98A to read as follows:

*Sec. 98A. (a) The commission shall permit a local exchange company that provides interactive multimedia communications services to establish rates at levels necessary, using sound rate-making principles, to recover costs associated with providing the services. Unless determined by the commission to be in the public interest, a local exchange company may not establish rates under this subsection that are less than the local exchange company's long run incremental costs of providing the interactive multimedia communications services.*

*(b) In this section, "interactive multimedia communications" has the meaning assigned by Section 14.0451(a), Education Code.*

**SECTION 3.** This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

**SECTION 4.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on April 7, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 24, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 18, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.