

CHAPTER 162.

S.B. No. 654

AN ACT

relating to college board advanced placement tests and courses and to establishing the Texas Advanced Placement Incentive Program.

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

SECTION 1. Title 2, Education Code, is amended by adding Chapter 35 to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 35. ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVES**

**Sec. 35.001. DEFINITIONS.** *In this chapter:*

- (1) "Board" means the State Board of Education.
- (2) "College advanced placement course" means a board-approved high-school-level preparatory course for a college advanced placement test which incorporates all topics specified by the College Board on its standard syllabus for a given subject area.
- (3) "College advanced placement test" means the advanced placement test administered by the College Board and Educational Testing Service.
- (4) "College Board" means the College Board and Educational Testing Service.
- (5) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of education.
- (6) "Program" means the Texas Advanced Placement Incentive Program.

**Sec. 35.002. CREATION OF PROGRAM AND PURPOSE.** (a) *The Texas Advanced Placement Incentive Program is created to recognize and reward those students, teachers, and schools that demonstrate success in achieving the educational goals of the state.*

(b) *Awards and subsidies granted under this chapter are for the public purpose of promoting an educated citizenry of the state.*

**Sec. 35.003. TYPES OF AWARDS.** (a) *Subject to legislative appropriations, schools participating in this program may be awarded the following:*

- (1) *a one-time \$3,000 equipment grant for providing a college advanced placement course, to be paid to schools based on need as determined by the commissioner; and*
- (2) *\$100 for each student who scores a three or better on a college advanced placement test.*

(b) *Subject to legislative appropriations, teachers participating in this program may be awarded the following:*

- (1) *subsidized teacher training, not to exceed \$450 per teacher, for college advanced placement courses;*
- (2) *a one-time award of \$250 for teaching a college advanced placement course for the first time; and*
- (3) *a share of the teacher bonus pool, which shall be distributed by the teachers' school in shares proportional to the number of courses taught.*

(c) *To be eligible for an award under Subsection (b) of this section a teacher must teach a college advanced placement course.*

(d) *Fifty dollars may be deposited in the teacher bonus pool for each student enrolled in the school that scores a three or better on an advanced placement test.*

(e) *Students receiving a score of three or better on an advanced placement test may receive a reimbursement, not to exceed \$65, for the advanced placement testing fee. This reimbursement shall be reduced by the amount of any subsidies awarded either by the College Board or under Section 35.004 of this code.*

(f) *The commissioner shall analyze and adjust, as needed, the sum of and number of awards to ensure that the purpose of the program is realized.*

(g) *The commissioner shall have the authority to promulgate the rules necessary to meet the goals of this program.*

**Sec. 35.004. SUBSIDIES FOR COLLEGE ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST.** (a) *A student is entitled to a subsidy for a fee paid by the student to take a college advanced placement test if the student demonstrates financial need. The board must adopt guidelines defining financial need consistent with the definition of financial need adopted by the College Board.*

(b) To obtain a subsidy under this section, the student must:

(1) pay the fee for each college advanced placement test for which the student seeks a subsidy; and

(2) submit to the board through the student's guidance counselor a written application on a form prescribed by the commissioner demonstrating financial need and the amount of the fee paid by the student for each college advanced placement test.

(c) On approval by the board, the Central Education Agency may pay all eligible applicants an equal amount, not to exceed \$25 for each applicant.

Sec. 35.005. **APPLICATION FOR AND USE OF SCHOOL AWARDS.** (a) A school shall give priority to academic enhancement purposes in using the awards received under this chapter. The awards may not be used for any purpose related to athletics.

(b) To obtain an award under this section, the school must submit to the board a written application in a form, manner, and time prescribed by the commissioner.

Sec. 35.006. **APPLICATION FOR TEACHER AWARDS AND REIMBURSEMENTS.** To obtain an award or reimbursement for training expenses under this section, a teacher must submit to the board a written application in a form, manner, and time prescribed by the commissioner.

Sec. 35.007. **FUNDING.** (a) The awards and subsidies granted under this chapter may be funded by donations, grants, or legislative appropriations. The commissioner may solicit and receive grants and donations for the purpose of making awards under this chapter. The donations, grants, or legislative appropriations shall be accounted for and distributed by the Central Education Agency.

(b) The Central Education Agency shall apply to the program any available funds from its appropriations which may be used for this purpose.

(c) All awards and subsidies granted under this program are subject to the availability of funds.

(d) Any applications for funding provided under Sections 35.003 and 35.004 of this code may be filed with the commissioner beginning July 15, 1995.

Sec. 35.008. **CONFIDENTIALITY.** All information regarding individual students received by the commissioner under this chapter from school districts and students is deemed confidential under Chapter 424, Acts of the 63rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1973 (Article 6252-17a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes).

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1994.

SECTION 3. 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 the Senate on March 30, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 5, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; passed the House, with amendments, on April 30, 1993; by a non-record vote.

Approved May 17, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1994.