1-1 By: Patrick, Paxton S.B. No. 23 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2013; March 12, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 17, 2013, 1-2 1-3 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the 1-4 following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 2; April 17, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Patrick	X	-		
1-9	Lucio	Χ			
1-10	Campbell	X			
1-11	Duncan			X	
1-12	Paxton	X			
1-13	Seliger			X	
1-14	Taylor	X			
1-15	Van de Putte		X		
1-16	West		Χ		

1-17 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 23 By: Patrick

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1-18 1-19 AN ACT

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relating to the establishment of the Texas Equal Opportunity Scholarship Program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter N to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER N. TEXAS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 29.551. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Certified organization" means an organization

certified under Section 29.552.

"Eligible student" means a student who meets the (2) requirements of (3) Section 29.559.

"Opportunity scholarship" means a Texas Equal Opportunity Scholarship Program scholarship awarded under Section 29.557.

"Qualified nonpublic school" means a school that (4)

meets the requirements of Section 29.560.

Sec. 29.552. CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIZATIONS;

ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM. (a) The comptroller may select and certify not more than three organizations from geographically diverse areas that meet the eligibility requirements of Section 29.553 to administer the Texas Equal Opportunity Scholarship Program. The comptroller shall select and certify those Program. The comptroller shall select and certify those organizations that the comptroller determines are likely to best administer the program from among the eligible organizations that apply.

(b) A certified organization may accept donations and award opportunity scholarships in this state under the conditions and limitations provided by this subchapter.

Sec. 29.553. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION. (a) An organization may apply to the comptroller for certification under Section 29.552.

selection organization is eligible and certification by the comptroller if the organization:

(1) according to the organization's charter primary purpose of awarding scholarships to or paying educational expenses for eligible students in elementary or secondary schools

located in this state;
(2) uses its annual revenue for the purpose provided 1-57 by Subdivision (1), except for a portion of the revenue that may be 1-58 1**-**59 used for reasonable operating expenses;
(3) is exempt from federal tax under Section 501(a), 1-60

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Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt organization in Section 501(c)(3) of that code and meeting all 2-1 2-2 other applicable requirements for that exemption; 2 - 32 - 4

(4) is in good standing with this state;

is located in and chartered by this state; (5)

demonstrates, within the previous five-year experience and expertise in awarding scholarships to period, students in elementary and secondary schools; and

(7) agrees to be independently audited on an annual basis and file the audit report with the comptroller if certified.

29.554. REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS. Sec.

(a) A certified organization shall:

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all times comply with the eligibility at requirements under Section 29.553(b);

(2) submit to an annual independent audit under guidelines provided by the comptroller and file the audit report with the comptroller;

(3) except by 29.556(b) provided as Section distribute all money received from donations under this subchapter

within two school years of receipt;

- (4) give each donor a receipt for money donated to the certified organization under this subchapter that includes the name of the certified organization, the name of the donor, the amount of donation, and any other information required by
- comptroller; and (5) of the amount of money received from donations made by donors for the purpose of providing scholarships under this subchapter, including all money donated by entities applying for a in connection with the donation under Chapter 230, tax credit

Insurance Code, or Subchapter K, Chapter 171, Tax Code:

(A) distribute not less than 95 percent in the

form of opportunity scholarships; and

(B) use not more tha<u>n</u> five percent to pay expenses of operating the organization.

(b)

A certified organization may not:
(1) award all opportunity scholarships to students who attend a particular school; or

(2) provide opportunity scholarships in a manner that

does not comply with Sections 29.556 and 29.557.

Sec. 29.555. REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION. (a) The comptroller shall revoke a certification under Section 29.552 if the comptroller finds that a certified organization:

(1) is not in compliance with the requirements of Section 29.554; or

otherwise intentionally and substantially

violates this subchapter.

(b) Revocation of a certification under this section does not affect the validity of a tax credit under Chapter 230, Insurance Code, or Subchapter K, Chapter 171, Tax Code, relating to a donation made before the date of revocation.

Sec. 29.556. ALLOCATION OF OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP MONEY.

Except as provided by Subsection (b), of a certified organization's money available to award opportunity scholarships for each school year, the certified organization shall use:

(1) at least 90 percent to award opportunity scholarships under Section 29.557 to eligible students to attend 90 qualified nonpublic schools in this state; and

(2) not more than 10 percent to award opportunity scholarships under Section 29.557 to eligible students to attend:

(A) tuition-supported prekindergarten programs at public schools in this state; or

(B) educational after-school programs, eligible students receiving the opportunity scholarships to attend after-school programs attend public schools in this state.

(b) If a certified organization awards the maximum opportunity scholarship to each eligible student described by maximum Subsection (a)(1) or (2) who applies for a school year but does not award the amount of the organization's money required to be used or available for those students for the year, the certified

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organization shall carry forward the remaining money for the year 3 - 1and use the money to award opportunity scholarships to those 3-2 3-3 students for subsequent school years. 3-4

Sec. 29.557. AWARD OF OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS. (a) For each school year a certified organization shall award opportunity scholarships according to the allocations prescribed by Section 29.556(a) to eligible students who apply as provided by this

(b) A certified organization shall award opportunity scholarships to applicants according to the following priority groups in the manner provided by Subsections (c) and (d):

(1) the certified organization shall first

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(A) applicants who were awarded an opportunity scholarship by the certified organization for the current school year and who are applying to renew the opportunity scholarship for the next school year; and

(B) siblings of applicants described

3-19 Paragraph (A);

- (2) the certified organization shall give second priority to applicants who currently attend a campus that is assigned a performance rating of unacceptable performance under Section 39.054; and
- the certified organization shall give third (3)
- priority to all other applicants.

 (c) A certified organization may not award an opportunity scholarship to an applicant in the priority group described by Subsection (b)(2) for a school year unless the certified organization awards an opportunity scholarship to each eligible student in the priority group described by Subsection (b)(1) who applies for that year. A certified organization may not award an opportunity scholarship to an applicant in the priority group described by Subsection (b)(3) for a school year unless the certified organization awards an opportunity scholarship to each eligible student in the priority groups described by Subsections (b)(1) and (2) who apply for that year.
- (d) If a certified organization is able to award opportunity scholarship to one or more, but not all, eligible students in a priority group described by Subsection (b) who apply, the certified organization shall use a lottery system to award opportunity scholarships to eligible students in that group who apply.
- Sec. 29.558. LIMITATION ON AMOUNTS OF OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS. (a) The amount of an opportunity scholarship awarded for a school year to a student to attend a qualified nonpublic school or a tuition-supported prekindergarten program at a public school may not exceed the amount of funding equal to 80 percent of the statewide average amount of state and local funding provided to school districts under Chapter 42 for a student in average daily attendance.

 (b) The amount of an opportunity scholarship awarded for a
- school year to a student to attend an educational after-school program may not exceed \$1,000.
- Sec. 29.559. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS. (a) A student is eligible for an opportunity scholarship if the student:

(1) resides in this state;

attended school for the majority of the preceding school year or will be attending school for the first time;

(3) is at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by Section 29.081; and

- a household income, according to the has (4)filed federal income tax returns for members of the household, not greater than 200 percent of the income guidelines necessary to qualify for the national free or reduced-price lunch
- program established under 42 U.S.C. Section 1751 et seq. (b) A student who establishes eligibility under Subsection (a) and receives an opportunity scholarship may continue to receive an opportunity scholarship until the earlier of the date the student graduates from high school or reaches 21 years of age.

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- 29.560. NONPUBLIC SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS. 4-1 (a) certified organization may not award an opportunity scholarship for 4-2 4-3 a student to attend a nonpublic school unless the nonpublic school:
 - (1) is accredited by, or has filed a currently pending application for accreditation by, an organization that recognized by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission;
 - (2) annually administers a nationally norm-referenced instrument or each appropriate assessment instrument required under Section 39.023;
 - (3) qualifies as a school at which a student may fulfill this state's compulsory attendance requirements;
 - (4) is not in violation of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. Section 2000a et seq.);
 - (5) holds a valid certificate of occupancy; and
 - (6) has written policy statements regarding:
 - admissions; (A)
 - curriculum; (B)
 - safety; (C)

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- (D) food service inspection; and
- (E) student to teacher ratios.
- nonpublic school that enrolls accepts enrollment a student who applies for or is awarded an opportunity scholarship shall provide to the certified organization to which the student applies or that awards the opportunity scholarship a notarized affidavit, with supporting documents, showing that nonpublic school meets the requirements of Subsection (a)
- Sec. 29.561. RULES; PROCEDURES. (a) The comptroller shall adopt rules and procedures to implement, administer, and enforce this subchapter.
- (b) A rule adopted under Subsection (a) is binding on a certified organization and on any state or local governmental entity, including a political subdivision, as necessary to implement, administer, and enforce this subchapter.
 Sec. 29.562. EVALUATION OF PROGRAM. (a) The comptroller
- may contract with one or more researchers experienced in evaluating school choice programs to conduct a study of the Texas Equal Opportunity Scholarship Program.
 - The study shall include assessment of: (b)
- (1)individual student performance on annual instruments before and after entering the program; assessment
 - (2) student satisfaction with the program; (3) parent satisfaction with the program;
- (4) the overall impact of the program on public school
- The study shall implement appropriate safeguards for student privacy and shall incorporate appropriate analytical and behavioral science methodologies to ensure public confidence in the study.
- Subject to applicable requirements of law regarding confidentiality of educational records, a school district or campus shall provide scores on student assessment instruments and any other student records necessary to meet the requirements of this section to a researcher awarded a contract under Subsection (a).
- (e) The comptroller may solicit and accept grants to pay the costs of implementing this section.
- (f) The comptroller shall provide the legislature with a the study conducted under this section.
 - This section expires June 1, 2022. (g)
- SECTION 2. Subtitle B, Title 3, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Chapter 230 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 230. CREDIT AGAINST PREMIUM TAXES

FOR DONATIONS TO TEXAS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS 230.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

"Certified organization" has the meaning assigned (1) 4-68 by Section 29.551, Education Code. 4-69

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"State premium tax liability" means any liability 5-1 incurred by an entity under Chapters 221 through 226. 5-2 5-3

SUBCHAPTER B. CREDIT

ELIGIBILITY. An entity is eligible for a Sec. 230.051. credit against the entity's state premium tax liability in the amount and under the conditions and limitations provided by this chapter.

Sec. 230.052. AMOUNT OF CREDIT; LIMITATIONS. (a) Subject to Subsections (b) and (c), the amount of the credit is equal to the lesser of the amount of donations made to a certified organization or the amount of the entity's state premium tax liability after applying any other applicable credits.

(b) For the 2014 state fiscal year, the total amount of tax credits that may be claimed under this chapter and Subchapter K, Chapter 171, Tax Code, may not exceed \$100 million. For each subsequent state fiscal year, the total amount of tax credits that may be claimed is equal to the lesser of:

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(1) an amount equal to 105 percent of the total amount of tax credits that may be claimed in the previous state fiscal year; or

(2) one percent of the total expenditures by public schools in this state in the preceding state fiscal year as

which the comptroller may allocate credits under this chapter and Subchapter K, Chapter 171, Tax Code. The procedures must provide that credits are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date the contribution was initially made.

(d) The comptroller may require an entity to notify the comptroller of the amount the entity intends or expects to claim under this chapter before the beginning of a state fiscal year or at

any other time required by the comptroller.

(e) An entity is not entitled to have a donation to certified organization returned because of a change in the entity state premium tax liability or in the amount of the entity's tax credit allowed under this chapter as a result of a federal or state audit, assessment, redetermination, amended return, or similar change in the entity's tax liability. The certified organization to which an entity makes a donation shall notify the entity of this provision.

230.053. APPLICATION FOR CREDIT. (a) An entity must Sec. apply for a credit under this chapter on or with the tax return for

the taxable year for which the credit is claimed.

(b) The comptroller shall adopt a form for the application for the credit. An entity must use this form in applying for the credit. The comptroller shall make the form available in electronic and paper format in the same manner as other tax forms.

Sec. 230.054. RULES; PROCEDURES. (a) The comptroller shall adopt rules and procedures to implications. shall adopt rules and procedures to implement, administer, and enforce this chapter.

(b) A rule adopted under Subsection (a) is binding on a

certified organization and on any state or local governmental entity, including a political subdivision, as necessary to implement, administer, and enforce this chapter.

Sec. 230.055. ASSIGNMENT PROHIBITED; EXCEPTION. An entity may not convey, assign, or transfer the credit allowed under this chapter to another entity unless all of the assets of the entity are conveyed, assigned, or transferred in the same transaction.
SECTION 3. Chapter 171, Tax Code, is amended by

Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. TAX CREDIT FOR DONATIONS TO TEXAS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "certified <u>Sec. 171.60</u>1. organization" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.551, Education Code.

171.602. ENTITLEMENT TO CREDIT. A taxable entity entitled to a credit in the amount and under the conditions and limitations provided by this subchapter against the tax imposed under this chapter.

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6-1 Sec. 171.603. QUALIFICATION. A taxable entity qualifies 6-2 for a credit under this subchapter if the taxable entity donates money to a certified organization.

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Sec. 171.604. AMOUNT OF CREDIT; LIMITATIONS. (a) Subject to Subsections (b) and (c), the amount of the credit is equal to the lesser of the amount of donations made to a certified organization during the privilege period or the amount of franchise tax due, after applying any other applicable credits.

after applying any other applicable credits.

(b) For the 2014 state fiscal year, the total amount of tax credits that may be claimed by all entities under this subchapter and Chapter 230, Insurance Code, may not exceed \$100 million. For each subsequent state fiscal year, the total amount of tax credits that may be claimed is equal to the lesser of:

(1) an amount equal to 105 percent of the total amount of tax credits that may be claimed in the previous state fiscal year; or

(2) one percent of the total expenditures by public schools in this state in the preceding state fiscal year as determined by the comptroller.

determined by the comptroller.

(c) The comptroller by rule shall prescribe procedures by which the comptroller may allocate credits under this subchapter and Chapter 230, Insurance Code. The procedures must provide that credits are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date the contribution was initially made.

(d) The comptroller may require a taxable entity to notify the comptroller of the amount the taxable entity intends or expects to claim under this subchapter before the beginning of a state fiscal year or at any other time required by the comptroller.

(e) A taxable entity is not entitled to have a donation returned because of a change in the taxable entity's tax liability under this chapter or in the amount of the taxable entity's tax credit allowed under this subchapter as a result of a federal or state audit, assessment, redetermination, amended return, or similar change in the taxable entity's tax liability. The certified organization to which a taxable entity makes a donation shall notify the taxable entity of this provision.

Sec. 171.605. APPLICATION FOR CREDIT. (a) A taxable entity applies for a gradity and or this growth chapter are according to the content of the company of the content of the company of the content of the company of the com

Sec. 171.605. APPLICATION FOR CREDIT. (a) A taxable entity must apply for a credit under this subchapter on or with the tax report for the period for which the credit is claimed.

tax report for the period for which the credit is claimed.

(b) The comptroller shall adopt a form for the application for the credit. A taxable entity must use this form in applying for the credit. The comptroller shall make the form available in electronic and paper format in the same manner as other tax forms.

Sec. 171.606. RULES; PROCEDURES. (a) The comptroller shall adopt rules and procedures to implement, administer, and enforce this subchapter.

(b) A rule adopted under Subsection (a) is binding on a certified organization and on any state or local governmental entity, including a political subdivision, as necessary to implement, administer, and enforce this subchapter.

Sec. 171.607. ASSIGNMENT PROHIBITED; EXCEPTION. A taxable

Sec. 171.607. ASSIGNMENT PROHIBITED; EXCEPTION. A taxable entity may not convey, assign, or transfer the credit allowed under this subchapter to another taxable entity unless all assets of the taxable entity are conveyed, assigned, or transferred in the same transaction.

SECTION 4. (a) The constitutionality and other validity under the state or federal constitution of all or any part of Subchapter N, Chapter 29, Education Code, Chapter 230, Insurance Code, or Subchapter K, Chapter 171, Tax Code, as added by this Act, may be determined in an action for declaratory judgment in a district court in Travis County under Chapter 37, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

(b) An appeal of a declaratory judgment or order, however characterized, of a district court, including an appeal of the judgment of an appellate court, holding or otherwise determining that all or any part of Subchapter N, Chapter 29, Education Code, Chapter 230, Insurance Code, or Subchapter K, Chapter 171, Tax Code, as added by this Act, is constitutional or unconstitutional, or otherwise valid or invalid, under the state or federal

7-1 constitution is an accelerated appeal.

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(c) If the judgment or order is interlocutory, interlocutory appeal may be taken from the judgment or order and is an accelerated appeal.

(d) A district court in Travis County may grant or deny a temporary or otherwise interlocutory injunction or a permanent injunction on the grounds of the constitutionality or unconstitutionality, or other validity or invalidity, under the state or federal constitution of all or any part of Subchapter N, Chapter 29, Education Code, Chapter 230, Insurance Code, or Subchapter K, Chapter 171, Tax Code, as added by this Act.

(e) There is a direct appeal to the supreme court from an order, however characterized, of a trial court granting or denying a temporary or otherwise interlocutory injunction or a permanent injunction on the grounds of the constitutionality or unconstitutionality, or other validity or invalidity, under the state or federal constitution of all or any part of Subchapter N, Chapter 29, Education Code, Chapter 230, Insurance Code, or Subchapter K, Chapter 171, Tax Code, as added by this Act.

(f) The direct appeal is an accelerated appeal.

This section exercises the authority granted by Section (g) 3-b, Article V, Texas Constitution.

The filing of a direct appeal under this section will (h) automatically stay any temporary or otherwise interlocutory injunction or permanent injunction granted in accordance with this section pending final determination by the supreme court, unless the supreme court makes specific findings that the applicant seeking such injunctive relief has pleaded and proved that:

(1) the applicant has a probable right to the relief it

seeks on final hearing; and

(2) the applicant will suffer a probable injury that is imminent and irreparable, and that the applicant has no other adequate legal remedy.

appeal under this section, including accelerated, or direct appeal, is governed, (i) An an interlocutory, applicable, by the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, including Rules 25.1(d)(6), 26.1(b), 28.1, 28.3, 32.1(g), 37.3(a)(1),

38.6(a) and (b), 40.1(b), and 49.4.

SECTION 5. A credit may be claimed under Chapter 230,
Insurance Code, or Subchapter K, Chapter 171, Tax Code, as added by
this Act, only for a donation made on or after January 1, 2014.

SECTION 6. Subchapter N, Chapter 29, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school

SECTION 7. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section:

this Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution; and

(2) if this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

(b) Chapter 230, Insurance Code, and Subchapter K, Chapter 7-52 7-53 171, Tax Code, as added by this Act, take effect January 1, 2014.

* * * * * 7-54