

AN ACT

relating to certain fiscal matters affecting governmental entities; reducing or affecting the amounts or rates of certain taxes, assessments, surcharges, and fees.

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

SECTION 1. Section 102.054, Business & Commerce Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 102.054. ALLOCATION OF CERTAIN REVENUE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS. The comptroller shall deposit the amounts [~~first \$25 million~~] received from the fee imposed under this subchapter [~~in a state fiscal biennium~~] to the credit of the sexual assault program fund.

SECTION 2. Section 21.703, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21.703. [~~EDUCATOR EXCELLENCE INNOVATION FUND,~~] AMOUNT OF GRANT AWARD. (a) [~~Each state fiscal year, the commissioner shall deposit an amount determined by the General Appropriations Act to the credit of the educator excellence innovation fund in the general revenue fund.~~] Each state fiscal year, the agency shall [~~use money in the educator excellence innovation fund to~~] provide each school district approved on a competitive basis under this subchapter with a grant in an amount determined by the agency in accordance with commissioner rule.

(b) Not later than April 1 of each state fiscal year, the

1 agency shall provide written notice to each school district that
2 will be provided a grant under this section that the district will
3 be provided the grant and the amount of that grant.

4 SECTION 3. Section 41.002(a), Education Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (a) A school district may not have a wealth per student that
7 exceeds:

8 (1) the wealth per student that generates the amount
9 of maintenance and operations tax revenue per weighted student
10 available to a district with maintenance and operations tax revenue
11 per cent of tax effort equal to the maximum amount provided per cent
12 under Section 42.101(a) or (b), for the district's maintenance and
13 operations tax effort equal to or less than the rate equal to the
14 sum of the product of the state compression percentage, as
15 determined under Section 42.2516, multiplied by the maintenance and
16 operations tax rate adopted by the district for the 2005 tax year
17 and any additional tax effort included in calculating the
18 district's compressed tax rate under Section 42.101(a-1);

19 (2) the wealth per student that generates the amount
20 of maintenance and operations tax revenue per weighted student
21 available to the Austin Independent School District, as determined
22 by the commissioner in cooperation with the Legislative Budget
23 Board, for the first six cents by which the district's maintenance
24 and operations tax rate exceeds the rate equal to the sum of the
25 product of the state compression percentage, as determined under
26 Section 42.2516, multiplied by the maintenance and operations tax
27 rate adopted by the district for the 2005 tax year and any

1 additional tax effort included in calculating the district's
2 compressed tax rate under Section 42.101(a-1), subject to Section
3 41.093(b-1); or

4 (3) \$319,500, for the district's maintenance and
5 operations tax effort that exceeds the amount of tax effort
6 described by Subdivision (2) [~~first six cents by which the~~
7 ~~district's maintenance and operations tax effort exceeds the rate~~
8 ~~equal to the product of the state compression percentage, as~~
9 ~~determined under Section 42.2516, multiplied by the maintenance and~~
10 ~~operations tax rate adopted by the district for the 2005 tax year]~~.

11 SECTION 4. Section 41.093(b-1), Education Code, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 (b-1) If the guaranteed level of state and local funds per
14 weighted student per cent of tax effort under Section
15 42.302(a-1)(1) for which state funds are appropriated for a school
16 year is an amount at least equal to the amount of revenue per
17 weighted student per cent of tax effort available to the Austin
18 Independent School District, as determined by the commissioner in
19 cooperation with the Legislative Budget Board, the commissioner, in
20 computing the amounts described by Subsections (a)(1) and (2) and
21 determining the cost of an attendance credit, shall exclude
22 maintenance and operations tax revenue resulting from the tax rate
23 described by Section 41.002(a)(2) [~~first six cents by which a~~
24 ~~district's maintenance and operations tax rate exceeds the rate~~
25 ~~equal to the product of the state compression percentage, as~~
26 ~~determined under Section 42.2516, multiplied by the maintenance and~~
27 ~~operations tax rate adopted by the district for the 2005 tax year]~~.

SECTION 5. Section 42.101, Education Code, as effective September 1, 2015, is amended by adding Subsections (a-1), (a-2), and (c) to read as follows:

(a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), for a school district that adopted a maintenance and operations tax rate for the 2005 tax year below the maximum rate permitted by law for that year, the district's compressed tax rate ("DCR") includes the portion of the district's current maintenance and operations tax rate in excess of the first six cents above the district's compressed tax rate, as defined by Subsection (a), until the district's compressed tax rate computed in accordance with this subsection is equal to the state maximum compressed tax rate ("MCR").

(a-2) Subsection (a-1) applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. For the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years, the board of trustees of a school district that adopted a maintenance and operations tax rate for the 2005 tax year below the maximum rate permitted by law for that year may choose to apply Subsection (a-1) to the calculation of the district's compressed tax rate ("DCR"). A board of trustees that chooses to apply Subsection (a-1) must notify the commissioner of the decision in writing not later than September 1 of the affected school year. This subsection expires September 1, 2018.

(c) This subsection applies to a school district for which the compressed tax rate ("DCR") is determined in accordance with Subsection (a-1). Any reduction in the district's adopted maintenance and operations tax rate is applied to the following components of the district's tax rate in the order specified:

1 (1) tax effort described by Section 42.302(a-1)(2);
2 (2) tax effort described by Section 42.302(a-1)(1);
3 and
4 (3) tax effort included in the determination of the
5 district's compressed tax rate ("DCR") under Subsection (a-1).

6 SECTION 6. Section 42.2516, Education Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

8 (c-1) Revenue generated by the portion of a district's
9 maintenance and operations tax rate included in calculating the
10 district's compressed tax rate under Section 42.101(a-1) and local
11 share under Section 42.252(a-1) is included in determining the
12 amount to which a district is entitled under this section, but may
13 not increase the total amount of revenue per weighted student to
14 which the district is entitled under this section. This subsection
15 expires September 1, 2017.

16 SECTION 7. Section 42.252, Education Code, is amended by
17 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

18 (a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), for a school district
19 that adopted a maintenance and operations tax rate for the 2005 tax
20 year below the maximum rate permitted by law for that year, the
21 district's tax rate ("TR") includes the tax effort included in
22 calculating the district's compressed tax rate under Section
23 42.101(a-1).

24 SECTION 8. Subchapter E, Chapter 42, Education Code, is
25 amended by adding Section 42.262 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 42.262. TAX RATE CONVERSION FUND. (a) Each fiscal
27 year, the commissioner shall identify amounts appropriated in the

General Appropriations Act from the Foundation School Fund, to be deposited in the tax rate conversion fund in the general revenue fund. The amount identified by the commissioner shall be sufficient to provide additional state aid to school districts to which the compressed tax rate modified under Section 42.101(a-1) applies, in excess of the level of state aid to which the district would have been entitled had Section 42.101(a-1) not taken effect.

(b) For the purposes of state aid payments to school districts under this chapter, the tax rate conversion fund shall be considered to be used in the same manner as the foundation school fund.

SECTION 9. Section 42.302(a-1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1) ~~[In this section, "wealth per student" has the meaning assigned by Section 41.001.]~~ For purposes of Subsection (a), the dollar amount guaranteed level of state and local funds per weighted student per cent of tax effort ("GL") for a school district is:

(1) the greater of the amount of district tax revenue per weighted student per cent of tax effort that would be available to the Austin Independent School District, as determined by the commissioner in cooperation with the Legislative Budget Board, if the reduction of the limitation on tax increases as provided by Section 11.26(a-1), (a-2), or (a-3), Tax Code, did not apply, or the amount of district tax revenue per weighted student per cent of tax effort used for purposes of this subdivision in the preceding school year, for the first six cents by which the district's

1 maintenance and operations tax rate exceeds the rate equal to the
2 sum of the product of the state compression percentage, as
3 determined under Section 42.2516, multiplied by the maintenance and
4 operations tax rate adopted by the district for the 2005 tax year
5 and any additional tax effort included in calculating the
6 district's compressed tax rate under Section 42.101(a-1); and

7 (2) \$31.95, for the district's maintenance and
8 operations tax effort that exceeds the amount of tax effort
9 described by Subdivision (1).

10 SECTION 10. Section 61.5391(a), Education Code, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 (a) The physician education loan repayment program account
13 is an account in the general revenue fund. The account is composed
14 of:

15 (1) gifts and grants contributed to the account;
16 (2) earnings on the principal of the account; and
17 (3) other amounts deposited to the credit of the
18 account, including:

19 (A) money deposited under Section [~~61.539(b) or~~]
20 61.5392;

21 (B) legislative appropriations; and

22 (C) money deposited under Section 155.2415, Tax
23 Code.

24 SECTION 11. Chapter 62, Education Code, is amended by
25 adding Subchapter H to read as follows:

26 SUBCHAPTER H. GOVERNOR'S UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

27 Sec. 62.161. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1 (1) "Advisory board" means the governor's university
2 research initiative advisory board.

3 (2) "Distinguished researcher" means a researcher who
4 is:

5 (A) a Nobel laureate or the recipient of an
6 equivalent honor; or

7 (B) a member of a national honorific society,
8 such as the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of
9 Engineering, or the Institute of Medicine, or an equivalent
10 honorific organization.

11 (3) "Eligible institution" means a general academic
12 teaching institution or health-related institution.

13 (4) "Fund" means the governor's university research
14 initiative fund established under this subchapter.

15 (5) "General academic teaching institution" has the
16 meaning assigned by Section [61.003](#).

17 (6) "Governing board" has the meaning assigned by
18 Section [61.003](#).

19 (7) "Health-related institution" means a medical and
20 dental unit as defined by Section [61.003](#) and any other public health
21 science center, public medical school, or public dental school
22 established by statute or in accordance with Chapter 61.

23 (8) "Office" means the Texas Economic Development and
24 Tourism Office within the office of the governor.

25 (9) "Private or independent institution of higher
26 education" has the meaning assigned by Section [61.003](#).

27 Sec. 62.162. ADMINISTRATION OF INITIATIVE. (a) The

1 governor's university research initiative is administered by the
2 Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office within the office of
3 the governor.

4 (b) From the governor's university research initiative
5 fund, the office shall award matching grants to assist eligible
6 institutions in recruiting distinguished researchers.

7 (c) The office may adopt any rules the office considers
8 necessary to administer this subchapter.

9 Sec. 62.163. MATCHING GRANTS. (a) An eligible institution
10 may apply to the office for a matching grant from the fund. Before
11 approval or disapproval of a grant application, the office shall
12 consider the recommendation of the advisory board regarding the
13 grant proposal. If the office approves a grant application, the
14 office shall award to the applicant institution a grant amount
15 equal to the amount committed by the institution for the
16 recruitment of a distinguished researcher, except as provided by
17 Subsection (c)(2).

18 (b) A grant application must identify the source and amount
19 of the eligible institution's matching funds and must demonstrate
20 that the proposed use of the grant has the support of the
21 institution's president and of the institution's governing board,
22 the chair of the institution's governing board, or the chancellor
23 of the university system, if the institution is a component of a
24 university system. An applicant eligible institution may commit
25 for matching purposes any funds of the institution available for
26 that purpose other than appropriated general revenue.

27 (c) The office may set a deadline for grant applications for

1 each state fiscal year. After fully funding approved grant
2 applications received during an application period for a state
3 fiscal year, the office may reopen applications for that year and:

4 (1) award the full amount of matching funds from the
5 fund for new applications; or

6 (2) approve previously disapproved applications
7 submitted before the original application deadline for receipt of a
8 reduced grant amount.

9 (d) A matching grant received by an eligible institution
10 under this subchapter may not be considered as a basis to reduce,
11 directly or indirectly, the amount of money otherwise appropriated
12 to the institution.

13 (e) A matching grant may not be used by an eligible
14 institution to recruit a distinguished researcher or other employee
15 from:

16 (1) another eligible institution; or

17 (2) a private or independent institution of higher
18 education.

19 (f) The office shall require an application and all
20 supporting documentation to be submitted to the office
21 electronically in the manner prescribed by the office.

22 Sec. 62.164. GRANT AWARD CRITERIA; PRIORITIES. (a) The
23 office may award grants only to grant proposals that involve the
24 recruitment of distinguished researchers in the fields of science,
25 technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine. The office
26 shall give priority to proposals that:

27 (1) demonstrate a reasonable probability of enhancing

1 Texas' national and global economic competitiveness;

2 (2) demonstrate a reasonable probability of creating a
3 nationally or internationally recognized locus of research
4 superiority or a unique locus of research;

5 (3) are matched with a significant amount of funding
6 from a federal or private source that may be transferred to the
7 eligible institution;

8 (4) are interdisciplinary and collaborative; or

9 (5) include a strategic plan for intellectual property
10 development and commercialization of technology.

11 (b) The office may award a grant to a proposal that:

12 (1) supports the recruitment of a distinguished
13 researcher distinguished in, or to be engaged in, basic,
14 translational, or applied research; or

15 (2) proposes the recruitment of a distinguished
16 researcher for new research capabilities of the eligible
17 institution or to expand the institution's existing research
18 capabilities.

19 (c) A grant proposal should identify a specific
20 distinguished researcher being recruited. In addition to the
21 factors considered in evaluating proposals considered a priority
22 under Subsection (a), the office may consider:

23 (1) the likelihood that the researcher being recruited
24 will not accept a research position with the applicant eligible
25 institution without the institution's receipt of a matching grant
26 under this subchapter;

27 (2) the extent to which the subject matter of the

1 researcher's research offers the opportunity for interdisciplinary
2 and collaborative research at the applicant eligible institution
3 and with other eligible institutions; and

4 (3) any commercialization track record of the
5 researcher being recruited.

6 Sec. 62.165. CONFIDENTIALITY. Information collected or
7 obtained by the office or the advisory board concerning the
8 identity of a particular distinguished researcher who is the
9 subject of a grant proposal under this subchapter is confidential
10 unless the researcher and the applicant eligible institution
11 consent to disclosure of the information. The information remains
12 confidential until the date, if any, on which the researcher enters
13 into an employment relationship with the recruiting institution as
14 contemplated in the grant proposal.

15 Sec. 62.166. ADVISORY BOARD. (a) The governor's
16 university research initiative advisory board is established to
17 assist the office with the review and evaluation of applications
18 for funding of grant proposals under this subchapter. The advisory
19 board shall make recommendations to the office for approval or
20 disapproval of those applications.

21 (b) The advisory board must be composed of at least nine
22 members appointed by the governor. Of the members of the board:

23 (1) one-third of the members, as nearly as possible,
24 must have a background in finance;

25 (2) one-third of the members, as nearly as possible,
26 must have an academic background in science, technology,
27 engineering, or mathematics; and

1 (3) one-third of the members, as nearly as possible,
2 must be public members.

3 (c) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
4 size, composition, or duration of the advisory board.

5 (d) A member of the advisory board who is or has been
6 employed by, is or has been a party to a contract for any purpose
7 with, or is a student or former student of an applicant eligible
8 institution may not be involved in the review, evaluation, or
9 recommendation of a grant proposal made by that institution.

10 (e) An advisory board member is not required to be a
11 resident of this state.

12 (f) Appointments to the advisory board shall be made without
13 regard to the race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or
14 national origin of the appointees.

15 (g) Members of the advisory board serve without
16 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for actual and
17 necessary expenses in attending meetings of the board or performing
18 other official duties authorized by the office.

19 Sec. 62.167. TIMELY ACTION ON APPLICATIONS. (a) The
20 advisory board shall meet in person or by teleconference to
21 consider grant applications under this subchapter and shall strive
22 to present to the office the board's recommendation for approval or
23 disapproval of an application not later than the 14th day after the
24 date the board receives the application.

25 (b) The office shall make a final decision regarding
26 approval of a grant application not later than the 14th day after
27 the date the office receives the advisory board's recommendation.

1 Sec. 62.168. GOVERNOR'S UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE
2 FUND. (a) The governor's university research initiative fund is a
3 dedicated account in the general revenue fund.

4 (b) The fund consists of:

5 (1) amounts appropriated or otherwise allocated or
6 transferred by law to the fund; and

7 (2) gifts, grants, and other donations received for
8 the fund.

9 (c) Sections 403.095 and 404.071, Government Code, do not
10 apply to the fund.

11 (d) The fund may be used by the office only for the purposes
12 of this subchapter, including for necessary expenses incurred in
13 the administration of the fund and this subchapter.

14 SECTION 12. Subchapter B, Chapter 403, Government Code, is
15 amended by adding Section 403.0143 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 403.0143. REPORT ON USE OF GENERAL REVENUE-DEDICATED
17 ACCOUNTS. After each regular session of the legislature, the
18 comptroller shall issue a report that itemizes each general
19 revenue-dedicated account and the estimated balance and revenue in
20 each account that is considered available for the purposes of
21 certification of appropriations as provided by Section 403.095.
22 The comptroller shall publish the report on the comptroller's
23 Internet website.

24 SECTION 13. Section 403.0956, Government Code, is amended
25 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 403.0956. REALLOCATION OF INTEREST ACCRUED ON CERTAIN
27 DEDICATED REVENUE. Notwithstanding any other law, all interest or

1 other earnings that accrue on all revenue held in an account in the
2 general revenue fund any part of which Section 403.095 makes
3 available for certification under Section 403.121 are available for
4 any general governmental purpose, and the comptroller shall deposit
5 the interest and earnings to the credit of the general revenue
6 fund. This section does not apply to:

7 (1) interest or earnings on revenue deposited in
8 accordance with Section 51.008, Education Code;

9 (2) an account that accrues interest or other earnings
10 on deposits of state or federal money the diversion of which is
11 specifically excluded by federal law;

12 (3) the lifetime license endowment account; ~~[or]~~

13 (4) the game, fish, and water safety account;

14 (5) the coastal protection account;

15 (6) the Alamo complex account; or

16 (7) the artificial reef account.

17 SECTION 14. Section 420.008(c), Government Code, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 (c) The legislature may appropriate money deposited to the
20 credit of the fund only to:

21 (1) the attorney general, for:

22 (A) sexual violence awareness and prevention
23 campaigns;

24 (B) grants to faith-based groups, independent
25 school districts, and community action organizations for programs
26 for the prevention of sexual assault and programs for victims of
27 human trafficking;

1 (C) grants for equipment for sexual assault nurse
2 examiner programs, to support the preceptorship of future sexual
3 assault nurse examiners, and for the continuing education of sexual
4 assault nurse examiners;

5 (D) grants to increase the level of sexual
6 assault services in this state;

7 (E) grants to support victim assistance
8 coordinators;

9 (F) grants to support technology in rape crisis
10 centers;

11 (G) grants to and contracts with a statewide
12 nonprofit organization exempt from federal income taxation under
13 Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, having as a
14 primary purpose ending sexual violence in this state, for programs
15 for the prevention of sexual violence, outreach programs, and
16 technical assistance to and support of youth and rape crisis
17 centers working to prevent sexual violence; ~~and~~

18 (H) grants to regional nonprofit providers of
19 civil legal services to provide legal assistance for sexual assault
20 victims;

21 (I) grants to prevent sex trafficking and to
22 provide services for victims of sex trafficking; and

23 (J) grants to carry out the purpose of this
24 chapter, including standardizing the quality of services provided,
25 preventing sexual assault, and improving services to survivors of
26 sexual assault;

27 (2) the Department of State Health Services, to

1 measure the prevalence of sexual assault in this state and for
2 grants to support programs assisting victims of human trafficking;

3 (3) the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual
4 Assault or the Bureau of Business Research at The University of
5 Texas at Austin, to conduct research on all aspects of sexual
6 assault and domestic violence;

7 (4) Texas State University, for training and technical
8 assistance to independent school districts for campus safety;

9 (5) the office of the governor, for grants to support
10 sexual assault and human trafficking prosecution projects;

11 (6) the department [~~Department of Public Safety~~], to
12 support sexual assault training for commissioned officers;

13 (7) the comptroller's judiciary section, for
14 increasing the capacity of the sex offender civil commitment
15 program;

16 (8) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice:

17 (A) for pilot projects for monitoring sex
18 offenders on parole; and

19 (B) for increasing the number of adult
20 incarcerated sex offenders receiving treatment;

21 (9) the Texas Juvenile Justice Department [~~Youth~~
22 ~~Commission~~], for increasing the number of incarcerated juvenile sex
23 offenders receiving treatment;

24 (10) the comptroller, for the administration of the
25 fee imposed on sexually oriented businesses under Section [102.052](#),
26 Business & Commerce Code; [~~and~~]

27 (11) the supreme court, to be transferred to the Texas

1 ~~[Equal]~~ Access to Justice Foundation, or a similar entity, to
2 provide victim-related legal services to sexual assault victims,
3 including legal assistance with protective orders,
4 relocation-related matters, victim compensation, and actions to
5 secure privacy protections available to victims under law;

6 (12) any state agency or organization for the purpose
7 of conducting human trafficking enforcement programs; and

8 (13) any other designated state agency for the purpose
9 of preventing sexual assault or improving services for victims of
10 sexual assault.

11 SECTION 15. The heading to Chapter 490, Government Code, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 CHAPTER 490. WINDING UP CONTRACTS AND STATE'S INVESTMENT
14 PORTFOLIO IN CONNECTION WITH AWARDS FROM TEXAS ~~[FUNDING FOR]~~
15 EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

16 SECTION 16. Section 490.101, Government Code, is amended by
17 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

18 (b-1) The fund may be used only for the purposes described
19 by Section 490.104.

20 SECTION 17. Subchapter C, Chapter 490, Government Code, is
21 amended by adding Sections 490.104 and 490.105 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 490.104. MANAGEMENT OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO; WINDING
23 UP AND FINAL LIQUIDATION. (a) In this section, "state's emerging
24 technology investment portfolio" means:

25 (1) the equity positions in the form of stock or other
26 security the governor took, on behalf of the state, in companies
27 that received awards under the Texas emerging technology fund; and

1 (2) any other investments made by the governor, on
2 behalf of the state, in connection with an award made under the
3 Texas emerging technology fund.

4 (b) The Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company shall
5 manage and wind up the state's emerging technology investment
6 portfolio. The trust company shall wind up the portfolio in a
7 manner that, to the extent feasible, provides for the maximum
8 return on the state's investment while also ensuring the return of
9 the state's investment. In managing those investments through
10 procedures and subject to restrictions that the trust company
11 considers appropriate, the trust company may acquire, exchange,
12 sell, supervise, manage, or retain any kind of investment that a
13 prudent investor, exercising reasonable care, skill, and caution,
14 would acquire or retain in light of the purposes, terms,
15 distribution requirements, and other circumstances then prevailing
16 pertinent to each investment. The trust company may recover its
17 reasonable and necessary costs incurred in the management of the
18 portfolio, including costs incurred in the retaining of
19 professional or technical advisors, from the earnings on the
20 investments in the portfolio.

21 (c) Any realized proceeds or other earnings from the sale of
22 stock or other investments in the state's emerging technology
23 investment portfolio, less the amount permitted to be retained for
24 payment of its costs for managing the portfolio as provided by
25 Subsection (b), shall be remitted by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping
26 Trust Company to the comptroller for deposit in the general revenue
27 fund.

1 (d) The Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company has any
2 power necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section.

3 (e) On final liquidation of the state's emerging technology
4 investment portfolio, the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company
5 shall promptly notify the comptroller of that occurrence. As soon
6 as practicable after receiving that notice, the comptroller shall
7 verify that the final liquidation has been completed and, if the
8 comptroller so verifies, shall certify to the governor that the
9 final liquidation of the portfolio has been completed. The
10 governor shall post notice of the certification on the office of the
11 governor's Internet website.

12 Sec. 490.105. CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN INFORMATION. (a)
13 Except as provided by Subsection (b), information concerning the
14 identity, background, finance, marketing plans, trade secrets, or
15 other commercially or academically sensitive information of an
16 individual or entity that was considered for or received an award
17 from the Texas emerging technology fund is confidential unless the
18 individual or entity consents to disclosure of the information.

19 (b) The following information collected in connection with
20 the Texas emerging technology fund is public information and may be
21 disclosed under Chapter 552, Government Code:

22 (1) the name and address of an individual or entity
23 that received an award from the fund;

24 (2) the amount of funding received by an award
25 recipient;

26 (3) a brief description of the project funded by the
27 award;

1 (4) if applicable, a brief description of the equity
2 position that the governor, on behalf of the state, has taken in an
3 entity that received an award from the fund; and

4 (5) any other information with the consent of:

5 (A) the governor;

6 (B) the lieutenant governor;

7 (C) the speaker of the house of representatives;

8 and

9 (D) the individual or entity that received an
10 award from the fund, if the information relates to that individual
11 or entity.

12 SECTION 18. Section 614.104, Government Code, is amended by
13 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (d) to read
14 as follows:

15 (a) The volunteer fire department assistance fund is an
16 account in the general revenue fund and is composed of money
17 collected under Chapter 2007 [~~Article 5.102~~], Insurance Code, and
18 contributions to the fund from any other source.

19 (b) Except as provided by Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (c) and
20 (d), money in the fund may be used only for a purpose under this
21 subchapter.

22 (d) Money in the fund may be appropriated for a contribution
23 to the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System subject to
24 Section 865.015.

25 SECTION 19. Section 361.014(a), Health and Safety Code, is
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (a) Revenue received by the commission under Section

1 361.013 shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of
2 the commission. Of that revenue, 66.7 percent is dedicated to the
3 commission's municipal solid waste permitting programs,
4 enforcement programs, and site remediation programs, and to pay for
5 activities that will enhance the state's solid waste management
6 program. The commission shall issue a biennial report to the
7 legislature describing in detail how the money was spent. The
8 activities to enhance the state's solid waste management program
9 may include:

10 (1) provision of funds for the municipal solid waste
11 management planning fund and the municipal solid waste resource
12 recovery applied research and technical assistance fund
13 established by the Comprehensive Municipal Solid Waste Management,
14 Resource Recovery, and Conservation Act (Chapter 363);

15 (2) conduct of demonstration projects and studies to
16 help local governments of various populations and the private
17 sector to convert to accounting systems and set rates that reflect
18 the full costs of providing waste management services and are
19 proportionate to the amount of waste generated;

20 (3) provision of technical assistance to local
21 governments concerning solid waste management;

22 (4) establishment of a solid waste resource center in
23 the commission and an office of waste minimization and recycling;

24 (5) provision of supplemental funding to local
25 governments for the enforcement of this chapter, the Texas Litter
26 Abatement Act (Chapter 365), and Chapters 391 and 683,
27 Transportation Code;

1 (6) conduct of a statewide public awareness program
2 concerning solid waste management;

3 (7) provision of supplemental funds for other state
4 agencies with responsibilities concerning solid waste management,
5 recycling, and other initiatives with the purpose of diverting
6 recyclable waste from landfills;

7 (8) conduct of research to promote the development and
8 stimulation of markets for recycled waste products;

9 (9) creation of a state municipal solid waste
10 superfund, from funds appropriated, for:

11 (A) the cleanup of unauthorized tire dumps and
12 solid waste dumps for which a responsible party cannot be located or
13 is not immediately financially able to provide the cleanup;

14 (B) the cleanup or proper closure of abandoned or
15 contaminated municipal solid waste sites for which a responsible
16 party is not immediately financially able to provide the cleanup;
17 and

18 (C) remediation, cleanup, and proper closure of
19 unauthorized recycling sites for which a responsible party is not
20 immediately financially able to perform the remediation, cleanup,
21 and closure;

22 (10) provision of funds to mitigate the economic and
23 environmental impacts of lead-acid battery recycling activities on
24 local governments; ~~and~~

25 (11) provision of funds for the conduct of research by
26 a public or private entity to assist the state in developing new
27 technologies and methods to reduce the amount of municipal waste

1 disposed of in landfills; and

2 (12) provision of funds for grants to encourage
3 entities located in an affected county or a nonattainment area, as
4 defined by Section 386.001, to convert heavy-duty vehicles used for
5 municipal solid waste collection into vehicles powered by natural
6 gas engines.

7 SECTION 20. Section 361.133, Health and Safety Code, is
8 amended by adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

9 (c-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), money in the account
10 attributable to fees imposed under Section 361.138 may be used for
11 environmental remediation at the site of a closed battery recycling
12 facility located in the municipal boundaries of a municipality with
13 a population of greater than 120,000. This subsection expires
14 September 30, 2016.

15 SECTION 21. Section 382.0622(a), Health and Safety Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (a) Clean Air Act fees consist of:

18 (1) fees collected by the commission under Sections
19 382.062, 382.0621, 382.202, and 382.302 and as otherwise provided
20 by law;

21 (2) \$2 from the portion of each fee collected for
22 inspections of vehicles other than mopeds and remitted to the state
23 under Sections [~~Section~~] 548.501 and 548.503, Transportation Code;
24 and

25 (3) fees collected that are required under Section 185
26 of the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Section 7511d).

27 SECTION 22. The heading to Section 780.002, Health and

Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 780.002. CERTAIN DEPOSITS TO ACCOUNT.

SECTION 23. Section 780.003(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The account is composed of money deposited to the credit of the account under Sections 542.406 and 707.008, Transportation Code, and under Section 780.002 of this code~~[, and the earnings of the account]~~.

SECTION 24. Section 2007.002, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2007.002. ASSESSMENT. The comptroller shall assess against all insurers to which this chapter applies amounts for each state fiscal year necessary, as determined by the commissioner, to collect a combined total equal to the lesser of:

(1) the total amount that the General Appropriations Act appropriates from the volunteer fire department assistance fund account in the general revenue fund for that state fiscal year other than appropriations for contributions to the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System made under Section 614.104(d), Government Code; or [and]

(2) \$30 million.

SECTION 25. Chapter 140, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 140.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 140.011. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR DISABLED VETERANS. (a) In this section:

(1) "General fund revenue" means revenue generated by

a local government from the following sources during a fiscal year and deposited in the dedicated general operating fund of the local government during that fiscal year:

(A) ad valorem taxes;

(B) sales and use taxes;

(C) franchise taxes, fees, or assessments charged for use of the local government's right-of-way;

(D) building and development fees, including permit and inspection fees;

(E) court fines and fees;

(F) other fees, assessments, and charges; and

(G) interest earned by the local government.

(2) "Local government" means:

(A) a municipality adjacent to a United States military installation; and

(B) a county in which a United States military installation is wholly or partly located.

(3) "Qualified local government" means a local government entitled to a disabled veteran assistance payment under this section.

(b) To serve the state purpose of ensuring that the cost of providing ad valorem tax relief to disabled veterans is shared equitably among the residents of this state, a local government is entitled to a disabled veteran assistance payment from the state for each fiscal year that the local government is a qualified local government. A local government is a qualified local government for a fiscal year if the amount of lost ad valorem tax revenue

1 calculated under Subsection (c) for that fiscal year is equal to or
2 greater than two percent of the local government's general fund
3 revenue for that fiscal year.

4 (c) For the purposes of this section, the amount of a local
5 government's lost ad valorem tax revenue for a fiscal year is
6 calculated by multiplying the ad valorem tax rate adopted by the
7 local government under Section 26.05, Tax Code, for the tax year in
8 which the fiscal year begins by the total appraised value of all
9 property located in the local government that is granted an
10 exemption from taxation under Section 11.131, Tax Code, for that
11 tax year.

12 (d) A disabled veteran assistance payment made to a
13 qualified local government for a fiscal year is calculated by
14 subtracting from the local government's lost ad valorem tax revenue
15 calculated under Subsection (c) for that fiscal year an amount
16 equal to one percent of the local government's general fund revenue
17 for that fiscal year.

18 (e) Not later than April 1 of the first year following the
19 end of a fiscal year for which a qualified local government is
20 entitled to a disabled veteran assistance payment, a qualified
21 local government may submit an application to the comptroller to
22 receive a disabled veteran assistance payment for that fiscal year.
23 The application must be made on a form prescribed by the
24 comptroller. The comptroller may require the qualified local
25 government to submit an independent audit otherwise required by law
26 to be prepared for the local government for the fiscal year for
27 which a qualified local government is entitled to the payment.

1 (f) A qualified local government that does not submit an
2 application to the comptroller by the date prescribed by Subsection
3 (e) is not entitled to a disabled veteran assistance payment for the
4 fiscal year for which that deadline applies.

5 (g) The comptroller shall review each application by a local
6 government to determine whether the local government is entitled to
7 a disabled veteran assistance payment. If the comptroller
8 determines that the local government is entitled to the payment,
9 the comptroller shall remit the payment from available funds to the
10 qualified local government not later than the 30th day after the
11 date the application for the payment is made.

12 (h) The comptroller shall transfer funds to a newly created
13 account in the state treasury for the purpose of reimbursement of
14 local governments under this section.

15 (i) The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to
16 implement this section.

17 SECTION 26. Section 81.0521(c), Natural Resources Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (c) The ~~[Two-thirds of the]~~ proceeds from this fee,
20 excluding any penalties collected in connection with the fee, shall
21 be deposited to the oil and gas regulation and cleanup fund as
22 provided by Section 81.067.

23 SECTION 27. Section 81.067(c), Natural Resources Code, is
24 amended to read as follows:

25 (c) The fund consists of:
26 (1) proceeds from bonds and other financial security
27 required by this chapter and benefits under well-specific plugging

1 insurance policies described by Section 91.104(c) that are paid to
2 the state as contingent beneficiary of the policies, subject to the
3 refund provisions of Section 91.1091, if applicable;

4 (2) private contributions, including contributions
5 made under Section 89.084;

6 (3) expenses collected under Section 89.083;

7 (4) fees imposed under Section 85.2021;

8 (5) costs recovered under Section 91.457 or 91.459;

9 (6) proceeds collected under Sections 89.085 and
10 91.115;

11 (7) interest earned on the funds deposited in the
12 fund;

13 (8) oil and gas waste hauler permit application fees
14 collected under Section 29.015, Water Code;

15 (9) costs recovered under Section 91.113(f);

16 (10) hazardous oil and gas waste generation fees
17 collected under Section 91.605;

18 (11) oil-field cleanup regulatory fees on oil
19 collected under Section 81.116;

20 (12) oil-field cleanup regulatory fees on gas
21 collected under Section 81.117;

22 (13) fees for a reissued certificate collected under
23 Section 91.707;

24 (14) fees collected under Section 91.1013;

25 (15) fees collected under Section 89.088;

26 (16) fees collected under Section 91.142;

27 (17) fees collected under Section 91.654;

- 1 (18) costs recovered under Sections 91.656 and 91.657;
2 (19) ~~[two-thirds of the]~~ fees collected under Section
3 81.0521;
4 (20) fees collected under Sections 89.024 and 89.026;
5 (21) legislative appropriations;
6 (22) any surcharges collected under Section 81.070;
7 ~~[and]~~
8 (23) fees collected under Section 91.0115;
9 (24) money deposited to the credit of the fund under
10 Section 81.112;
11 (25) fees collected under Subchapter E, Chapter 121,
12 Utilities Code; and
13 (26) fees collected under Section 27.0321, Water Code.

14 SECTION 28. Section 81.068, Natural Resources Code, as
15 amended by Chapters 835 (H.B. 7) and 1075 (H.B. 3309), Acts of the
16 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, is reenacted and amended
17 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 81.068. PURPOSES OF OIL AND GAS REGULATION AND CLEANUP
19 FUND. Money in the oil and gas regulation and cleanup fund may be
20 used by the commission or its employees or agents for any purpose
21 related to the regulation of oil and gas development, including oil
22 and gas monitoring and inspections, oil and gas remediation, and
23 oil and gas well plugging, the study and evaluation of electronic
24 access to geologic data and surface casing depths necessary to
25 protect usable groundwater in this state, alternative fuels
26 programs under Section 81.0681, the administration of pipeline
27 safety and regulatory programs, public information and services

1 related to those activities, and administrative costs and state
2 benefits for personnel involved in those activities.

3 SECTION 29. Section 81.112, Natural Resources Code, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Sec. 81.112. DISPOSITION OF TAX PROCEEDS. The tax shall be
6 deposited in the oil and gas regulation and cleanup fund as provided
7 by Section 81.067 [~~General Revenue Fund~~].

8 SECTION 30. Section 153.0535(b), Occupations Code, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (b) The board shall deposit each surcharge collected to the
11 credit of the public assurance account. The public assurance
12 account is an account in the general revenue fund that shall be
13 appropriated only to the board to pay for the board's licensure and
14 enforcement programs [~~program~~], including the expert physician
15 panel.

16 SECTION 31. (a) Sections 201.354(d) and (g), Occupations
17 Code, are amended to read as follows:

18 (d) A person whose license has been expired for 90 days or
19 less may renew the license by paying to the board a renewal fee that
20 is equal to [~~the sum of~~] 1-1/2 times the annual renewal fee set by
21 the board under Section 201.153(a) [~~and the increase in that fee~~
22 ~~required by Section 201.153(b)~~]. If a person's license has been
23 expired for more than 90 days but less than one year, the person may
24 renew the license by paying to the board a renewal fee that is equal
25 to [~~the sum of~~] two times the annual renewal fee set by the board
26 under Section 201.153(a) [~~and the increase in that fee required by~~
27 ~~Section 201.153(b)~~].

(g) A person may renew a license that has been expired for at least one year but not more than three years if:

(1) the board determines according to criteria adopted by board rule that the person has shown good cause for the failure to renew the license; and

(2) the person pays to the board:

(A) the annual renewal fee set by the board under Section 201.153(a) for each year in which the license was expired; and

(B) an additional fee in an amount equal to the sum of:

(i) the annual renewal fee set by the board under Section 201.153(a), multiplied by the number of years the license was expired, prorated for fractional years; and

(ii) two times the annual renewal fee set by the board under Section 201.153(a) [~~and~~

~~[(C) the increase in the annual renewal fee required by Section 201.153(b)].~~

(b) Section 351.304(b), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A person whose license has been expired for 90 days or less may renew the license by paying to the board a renewal fee that is equal to [~~the sum of~~] one and one-half times the annual renewal fee set by the board under Section 351.152 [~~and the additional fee required by Section 351.153~~]. If a person's license has been expired for more than 90 days but less than one year, the person may renew the license by paying to the board a renewal fee that is equal

1 to ~~[the sum of]~~ two times the annual renewal fee set by the board
2 under Section 351.152 ~~[and the additional fee required by Section~~
3 ~~351.153]~~.

4 (c) Section 351.306(b), Occupations Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (b) The person must pay to the board a fee that is equal to
7 the amount of the renewal fee set by the board under Section 351.152
8 ~~[351.153(a)]~~.

9 (d) Sections 801.303(b) and (c), Occupations Code, are
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (b) A person whose license has been expired for 90 days or
12 less may renew the license by paying to the board a renewal fee that
13 is equal to ~~[the sum of]~~ 1-1/2 times the renewal fee set by the board
14 under Section 801.154(a) ~~[and the additional fee required by~~
15 ~~Section 801.154(b), if applicable]~~.

16 (c) A person whose license has been expired for more than 90
17 days but less than one year may renew the license by paying to the
18 board a renewal fee that is equal to ~~[the sum of]~~ two times the
19 renewal fee set by the board under Section 801.154(a) ~~[and the~~
20 ~~additional fee required by Section 801.154(b), if applicable]~~.

21 (e) Section 801.305(b), Occupations Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (b) The person must pay to the board a fee that is equal to
24 the amount of the renewal fee set by the board under Section
25 801.154(a) ~~[and the additional fee required by Section 801.154(b)]~~.

26 (f) Sections 901.155(a) and (c), Occupations Code, are
27 amended to read as follows:

1 (a) The fee for the issuance or renewal of a license under
2 this chapter consists of:

3 (1) the amount of the fee set by the board under
4 Section 901.154; and

5 (2) ~~[the fee increase imposed under Section 901.406,~~
6 ~~and~~

7 ~~[(3)]~~ an additional \$10 annual fee to be deposited to
8 the credit of the scholarship trust fund for fifth-year accounting
9 students.

10 (c) The administrative costs incurred to collect the fee
11 imposed under Subsection (a)(2) ~~[(a)(3)]~~ and to disburse the money
12 may not exceed 10 percent of the total money collected.

13 (g) Section 901.405(f), Occupations Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (f) A person who was licensed in this state, moved to
16 another state, and is currently licensed and has been in practice in
17 the other state for the two years preceding the date of application
18 may obtain a new license without reexamination. A person described
19 by this subsection whose license has been revoked under Section
20 901.502(3) or (4) may obtain a new license under this subsection. A
21 person described by this subsection must pay to the board a fee that
22 is equal to two times the normally required renewal fee for the
23 license ~~[and is not subject to additional fees under Section~~
24 ~~901.408]~~.

25 (h) Section 901.408(a), Occupations Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (a) A person, other than a person described by Section

1 901.405(f), who fails to pay the license renewal fee [~~or the~~
2 ~~additional fee imposed under Section 901.407, as applicable,~~] and
3 any late fee before the first anniversary of the due date of the
4 renewal fee [~~or additional fee~~] may renew the person's license only
5 by submitting to the board an application for renewal accompanied
6 by payment of:

7 (1) all accrued fees, including late fees; and

8 (2) the direct administrative costs incurred by the
9 board in renewing the person's license.

10 (i) Sections 1001.353(b) and (c), Occupations Code, are
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (b) A person whose license has been expired for 90 days or
13 less may renew the license by paying to the board the required
14 annual renewal fee and [7] a late renewal fee [~~7 and any applicable~~
15 ~~increase in fees as required by Section 1001.206~~].

16 (c) A person whose license has been expired for more than 90
17 days but less than two years may renew the license by paying to the
18 board the required annual renewal fee and [7] a late renewal fee [7
19 ~~and any applicable increase in fees as required by Section~~
20 ~~1001.206~~] for each delinquent year or part of a year.

21 (j) Section 1001.355(d), Occupations Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (d) To return to active status, a license holder on inactive
24 status must:

25 (1) file with the board a written notice requesting
26 reinstatement to active status;

27 (2) pay the fee for the annual renewal of the license

1 ~~[and the fee increase required by Section 1001.206]~~; and

2 (3) provide evidence satisfactory to the board that
3 the person has complied with the continuing education requirements
4 adopted by the board.

5 (k) Section 1101.154(a), Occupations Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) The fee for the issuance or renewal of a:

8 (1) broker license is the amount of the fee set under
9 Section ~~[Sections]~~ 1101.152 ~~[and 1101.153]~~ and an additional \$70
10 ~~[\$20]~~ fee;

11 (2) salesperson license is the amount of the fee set
12 under Section 1101.152 and an additional \$20 fee; and

13 (3) certificate of registration is the amount of the
14 fee set under Section 1101.152 and an additional \$20 fee.

15 (1) The following provisions are repealed:

16 (1) Section 153.053, Occupations Code;
17 (2) Sections 201.153(b) and (c), Occupations Code;
18 (3) Section 254.004(b), Occupations Code;
19 (4) Section 351.153, Occupations Code;
20 (5) Section 501.153, Occupations Code;
21 (6) Sections 801.154(b), (c), and (d), Occupations
22 Code;

23 (7) Section 901.406, Occupations Code;

24 (8) Section 901.407, Occupations Code;

25 (9) Section 901.410, Occupations Code;

26 (10) Section 1001.206, Occupations Code;

27 (11) Section 1051.652, Occupations Code;

1 (12) Section 1052.0541, Occupations Code;
2 (13) Section 1053.0521, Occupations Code;
3 (14) Section 1071.1521, Occupations Code;
4 (15) Section 1101.153, Occupations Code;
5 (16) Section 1105.003(e), Occupations Code;
6 (17) Section 1152.053, Occupations Code;
7 (18) Subchapter H, Chapter 191, Tax Code; and
8 (19) Section 41, The Securities Act (Article 581-41,
9 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes).

10 (m) The changes in law made by this section do not affect a
11 surcharge, additional fee, additional charge, fee increase, tax, or
12 late fee imposed before the effective date of this Act, and the law
13 in effect before the effective date of this Act is continued in
14 effect for purposes of the liability for and collection of those
15 surcharges, additional fees, additional charges, fee increases,
16 taxes, and late fees.

17 SECTION 32. Section 1105.003(d), Occupations Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (d) All ~~[Except as provided by Subsection (e), all]~~ fees and
20 funds collected by the commission or the board and any funds
21 appropriated to the commission or the board shall be deposited in
22 interest-bearing deposit accounts in the Texas Treasury
23 Safekeeping Trust Company. The comptroller shall contract with
24 the commission and the board for the maintenance of the deposit
25 accounts under terms comparable to a contract between a commercial
26 banking institution and the institution's customers.

27 SECTION 33. Section 1701.156, Occupations Code, is amended

by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The Department of Public Safety may use money appropriated to the department from the account to award grants to local law enforcement agencies for training on incident-based reporting systems to be used for reporting information and statistics concerning criminal offenses committed in this state. The department shall adopt rules governing the award of grants by the department under this subsection.

SECTION 34. Section 1701.157, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) Subsection (a) does not apply to money appropriated to the Department of Public Safety from the account for the purpose of awarding grants to local law enforcement agencies for training on incident-based reporting systems under Section 1701.156(c).

SECTION 35. Section 151.0515(b), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) In each county in this state, a surcharge is imposed on the retail sale, lease, or rental of new or used equipment in an amount equal to 1.5 ~~[two]~~ percent of the sale price or the lease or rental amount.

SECTION 36. Section 155.2415, Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 155.2415. ALLOCATION OF CERTAIN REVENUE TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FUND AND CERTAIN OTHER FUNDS. (a) Notwithstanding Section 155.241, the proceeds from the collection of taxes imposed by Section 155.0211 shall be allocated as follows:

(1) the amount of the proceeds that is equal to the

amount that, if the taxes imposed by Section 155.0211 were imposed at a rate of 40 percent of the manufacturer's list price, exclusive of any trade discount, special discount, or deal, would be attributable to the portion of that tax rate in excess of 35.213 percent, shall be deposited to the credit of the property tax relief fund under Section 403.109, Government Code;

(2) the amount of the proceeds that is equal to the amount that would be attributable to a tax rate of 35.213 percent of the manufacturer's list price, exclusive of any trade discount, special discount, or deal, if the taxes were imposed by Section 155.0211 at that rate, shall be deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund; and

(3) 100 percent of the remaining proceeds shall be deposited to the credit of:

(A) the physician education loan repayment program account established under Subchapter J, Chapter 61, Education Code; or

(B) the general revenue fund, if the comptroller determines that the unencumbered beginning balance of the physician education loan repayment account established under Subchapter J, Chapter 61, Education Code, is sufficient to fund appropriations and other direct and indirect costs from that account for the fulfillment of existing and expected physician loan repayment commitments during the current state fiscal biennium.

(b) Proceeds deposited in accordance with Subsection (a)(3)(B) may be appropriated only for health care purposes.

SECTION 37. Section 504.6012, Transportation Code, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 Sec. 504.6012. ELIMINATION OF DEDICATED REVENUE ACCOUNTS;
3 REVENUES IN TRUST. (a) Notwithstanding any other law [~~provision of~~
4 ~~this subchapter~~], not later than September 30, 2015 [~~2013~~], the
5 comptroller shall eliminate all dedicated accounts established for
6 specialty license plates [~~under this subchapter~~] and shall set
7 aside the balances of those dedicated accounts so that the balances
8 may be appropriated only for the purposes intended as provided by
9 the dedications.

10 (b) On and after September 1, 2015 [~~2013~~], the portion of a
11 fee payable [~~under this subchapter~~] that is designated for deposit
12 to a dedicated account shall be paid instead to the credit of an
13 account in a trust fund created by the comptroller outside the
14 general revenue fund. The comptroller shall administer the trust
15 fund and accounts and may allocate the corpus and earnings on each
16 account only in accordance with the dedications of the revenue
17 deposited to the trust fund accounts.

18 SECTION 38. Section 542.406(c), Transportation Code, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (c) Not later than the 60th day after the end of a local
21 authority's fiscal year, after deducting amounts the local
22 authority is authorized by Subsection (d) to retain, the local
23 authority shall:

24 (1) send 50 percent of the revenue derived from civil
25 or administrative penalties collected by the local authority under
26 this section to the comptroller for deposit to the credit of the
27 designated [~~regional~~] trauma facility and emergency medical

1 services account established under Section 780.003 [~~782.002~~],
2 Health and Safety Code; and

3 (2) deposit the remainder of the revenue in a special
4 account in the local authority's treasury that may be used only to
5 fund traffic safety programs, including pedestrian safety
6 programs, public safety programs, intersection improvements, and
7 traffic enforcement.

8 SECTION 39. Section 707.008(a), Transportation Code, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (a) Not later than the 60th day after the end of a local
11 authority's fiscal year, after deducting amounts the local
12 authority is authorized by Subsection (b) to retain, the local
13 authority shall:

14 (1) send 50 percent of the revenue derived from civil
15 or administrative penalties collected by the local authority under
16 this section to the comptroller for deposit to the credit of the
17 designated [~~regional~~] trauma facility and emergency medical
18 services account established under Section 780.003 [~~782.002~~],
19 Health and Safety Code; and

20 (2) deposit the remainder of the revenue in a special
21 account in the local authority's treasury that may be used only to
22 fund traffic safety programs, including pedestrian safety
23 programs, public safety programs, intersection improvements, and
24 traffic enforcement.

25 SECTION 40. Section 708.103, Transportation Code, is
26 amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to
27 read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the ~~[The]~~ amount of a surcharge under this section is \$250 per year.

(c) The amount of a surcharge under this section is \$125 per year if the person:

(1) has been convicted of an offense under Section 601.191, and no other offense described by Subsection (a); and

(2) establishes financial responsibility under Section 601.051 not later than the 60th day after the date of the offense through a motor vehicle liability insurance policy that:

(A) complies with Subchapter D, Chapter 601; and

(B) is prepaid and valid for at least a six-month period.

SECTION 41. Section 708.104, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (b-1), the ~~[The]~~ amount of a surcharge under this section is \$100 per year.

(b-1) The amount of a surcharge under this section is \$50 per year if the person obtains a driver's license not later than the 60th day after the date of the offense.

SECTION 42. Section 39.9039(b), Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Notwithstanding Section 39.903(e), money in the system benefit fund may be appropriated:

(1) for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2013, a program established by the commission to assist low-income electric customers by providing a reduced rate for the months of

1 September, 2013, and May through August, 2014, in the manner
2 prescribed by Section 39.903(h) at a rate of up to 82 percent;

3 (2) for the state fiscal year beginning September 1,
4 2014, a program established by the commission to assist low-income
5 electric customers by providing a reduced rate for the months of
6 September, 2014, and May through August, 2015, in the manner
7 prescribed by Section 39.903(h) at a rate of up to 15 percent;

8 (3) for the state fiscal year beginning September 1,
9 2015, a program established by the commission to assist low-income
10 electric customers by providing a reduced rate [~~for the months of~~
11 ~~September, 2015, and May through August, 2016,~~] in the manner
12 prescribed by Section 39.903(h) at a rate the commission determines
13 is necessary to exhaust the system benefit fund [~~of up to 15~~
14 ~~percent~~]; and

15 (4) for customer education programs and
16 administrative expenses incurred by the commission in implementing
17 and administering this chapter.

18 SECTION 43. Section 121.211(h), Utilities Code, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 (h) A fee collected under this section shall be deposited to
21 the credit of the oil and gas regulation and cleanup [~~general~~
22 ~~revenue~~] fund as provided by Section 81.067, Natural Resources Code
23 [~~to be used for the pipeline safety and regulatory program~~].

24 SECTION 44. Section 26.3574(b-1), Water Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (b-1) The commission by rule shall set the amount of the fee
27 in Subsection (b) in an amount not to exceed the amount necessary to

cover the agency's costs of administering this subchapter, as indicated by the amount appropriated by the legislature from the petroleum storage tank remediation account for that purpose, not including any amount appropriated by the legislature from the petroleum storage tank remediation account for the purpose of the monitoring or remediation of releases occurring on or before December 22, 1998.

SECTION 45. Section 27.0321, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 27.0321. APPLICATION FEE. (a) With each application for an oil and gas waste disposal well permit, the applicant shall submit to the railroad commission a nonrefundable fee of \$100.

(b) The fee collected under this section shall be deposited to the credit of the oil and gas regulation and cleanup fund as provided by Section 81.067, Natural Resources Code.

SECTION 46. The following provisions of law, including provisions amended by S.B. 219, Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, are repealed:

- (1) Section 102.055, Business & Commerce Code;
- (2) Section 61.539, Education Code;
- (3) Section 780.003(c), Health and Safety Code;
- (4) Chapter 782, Health and Safety Code; and
- (5) Section 81.113, Natural Resources Code.

SECTION 47. The following laws are repealed:

- (1) Sections 490.101(c), (d), (e), (f), (f-1), (g), (h), and (i), Government Code;
- (2) Section 490.102, Government Code; and

(3) Subchapters A, B, D, E, F, and G, Chapter 490, Government Code.

SECTION 48. (a) The Texas emerging technology fund is continued solely for the purposes of winding up the contracts governing awards from that fund and the state's portfolio of equity positions and other investments in connection with awards from that fund in accordance with Section 490.104, Government Code, as added by this Act. The Texas emerging technology fund is abolished and Sections 490.101(a), (b), and (b-1), Government Code, are repealed when the comptroller certifies to the governor as provided by Section 490.104, Government Code, as added by this Act, that the final liquidation of the state's portfolio of equity positions and other investments by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company has been completed. On the effective date of this Act, any unencumbered fund balance in the Texas emerging technology fund may be appropriated in accordance with Subsection (a-1) of this section.

(a-1) Any unencumbered balance of the Texas emerging technology fund may be appropriated only to one or more of the following:

(1) the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP) under Subchapter F, Chapter 62, Education Code;

(2) the Texas research university fund, subject to Subsection (b) of this section;

(3) the governor's university research initiative fund established under Subchapter H, Chapter 62, Education Code, as added by this Act;

1 (4) the Texas Enterprise Fund established under
2 Section 481.078, Government Code; and

3 (5) the comptroller for the purposes of expenses
4 incurred in managing the state's portfolio of equity positions and
5 other investments in connection with awards from the Texas emerging
6 technology fund in accordance with Section 490.104, Government
7 Code, as added by this Act.

8 (b) The authority of the Texas research university fund to
9 receive the appropriation described by Subsection (a-1) of this
10 section is contingent on passage and enactment of H.B. 1000, or
11 similar legislation relating to state support for general academic
12 teaching institutions in this state by the 84th Legislature,
13 Regular Session, 2015, that renames the existing Texas competitive
14 knowledge fund and changes the purposes for which the fund can be
15 used.

16 (c) The abolishment by this Act of the Texas emerging
17 technology fund and the repeal of provisions of Chapter 490,
18 Government Code, relating to that fund do not affect the validity of
19 an agreement between the governor and an award recipient or a person
20 to be awarded money that is entered into under Chapter 490 before
21 September 1, 2015.

22 (d) Money that was deposited in the Texas emerging
23 technology fund as a gift, grant, or donation under Chapter 490,
24 Government Code, and that is encumbered by the specific terms of the
25 gift, grant, or donation may be spent only in accordance with the
26 terms of the gift, grant, or donation.

27 (e) Money from the Texas emerging technology fund that is

1 encumbered because the money is awarded or otherwise obligated by
2 agreement before September 1, 2015, but under the terms of the award
3 or agreement will not be distributed until a later date shall be
4 distributed in accordance with the terms of the award or agreement.
5 If the governor determines that the money will not be distributed in
6 accordance with the terms of the award or agreement, the governor
7 shall certify that fact to the comptroller. On that certification,
8 the comptroller shall make that money available in the general
9 revenue fund to be used in accordance with legislative
10 appropriation.

11 (f) On or after the effective date of this Act, the
12 following payments or other amounts shall be sent to the
13 comptroller for deposit to the Texas emerging technology fund to be
14 used solely for the purposes of winding up the state's portfolio of
15 equity positions and other investments as provided by Sections
16 [490.101](#)(b-1) and [490.104](#), Government Code, as added by this Act:

17 (1) any royalties, revenues, and other financial
18 benefits realized from a project undertaken with money from the
19 Texas emerging technology fund, as provided by a contract described
20 by Section [490.103](#), Government Code;

21 (2) any interest or proceeds received as a result of a
22 transaction authorized by former Section [490.101](#)(h), Government
23 Code;

24 (3) any money returned or repaid to the state by an
25 award recipient pursuant to an agreement entered into under former
26 Section [490.101](#)(g), Government Code;

27 (4) any money derived from an interest the state

1 retained in a capital improvement pursuant to an agreement entered
2 into under former Section 490.101(g), Government Code; and

3 (5) any fund money returned by an entity that fails to
4 perform an action guaranteed by a contract entered into under
5 former Section 490.154 or 490.203, Government Code.

6 SECTION 49. A regional center of innovation and
7 commercialization established under Section 490.152, Government
8 Code, is abolished on the effective date of this Act. Each center
9 shall transfer to the office of the governor a copy of any meeting
10 minutes required to be retained under Section 490.1521, Government
11 Code, as that section existed immediately before that section's
12 repeal by this Act, and the office shall retain the minutes for the
13 period prescribed by that section.

14 SECTION 50. Except as provided by this Act, on September 1,
15 2015, the following powers, duties, functions, and activities
16 performed by the office of the governor immediately before that
17 date are transferred to the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust
18 Company:

19 (1) all powers, duties, functions, and activities
20 related to equity positions in the form of stock or other security
21 the governor has taken, on behalf of the state, in companies that
22 received awards under the Texas emerging technology fund before
23 September 1, 2015; and

24 (2) all powers, duties, functions, and activities
25 related to other investments made by the governor, on behalf of the
26 state, in connection with an award made under the Texas emerging
27 technology fund before September 1, 2015.

1 SECTION 51. As soon as practicable, but not later than
2 December 1, 2015, the comptroller of public accounts shall develop
3 the disabled veteran assistance payment form required by Section
4 140.011(e), Local Government Code, as added by this Act.

5 SECTION 52. A local government that is a qualified local
6 government, as that term is defined by Section 140.011(a), Local
7 Government Code, as added by this Act, for a fiscal year that began
8 in the 2014 tax year is eligible to apply for a disabled veteran
9 assistance payment as prescribed by Section 140.011, Local
10 Government Code, for that fiscal year.

11 SECTION 53. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Department
12 of Public Safety shall adopt rules as required by Section
13 1701.156(c), Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

14 SECTION 54. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
15 708.103 and 708.104, Transportation Code, apply to a surcharge
16 pending on the effective date of this Act, regardless of when the
17 surcharge was assessed.

18 SECTION 55. Not later than the 90th day of the state fiscal
19 year beginning September 1, 2015, the comptroller shall transfer
20 any remaining balance in the educator excellence innovation fund
21 account No. 5135 to the credit of the general revenue fund.

22 SECTION 56. Not later than the 90th day of the state fiscal
23 year beginning September 1, 2015, the comptroller shall transfer
24 any remaining balance in the regional trauma account No. 5137 to the
25 credit of the designated trauma facility and EMS account No. 5111 in
26 the general revenue fund.

27 SECTION 57. (a) Notwithstanding Section 2007.002,

Insurance Code, as amended by this Act, for the state fiscal years beginning September 1, 2015, and beginning September 1, 2016, the comptroller shall assess against all insurers to which Chapter 2007, Insurance Code, applies amounts for that state fiscal year necessary, as determined by the commissioner of insurance, to collect a combined total equal to the lesser of:

(1) the total amount that the General Appropriations Act appropriates from the volunteer fire department assistance fund account in the general revenue fund for that state fiscal year other than:

(A) appropriations for contributions to the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System made under Section 614.104(d), Government Code, as added by this Act; and

(B) appropriations to the Texas A&M Forest Service for grants to volunteer fire departments in a total amount not to exceed \$11,500,000; or

(2) \$30 million.

(b) This section expires September 1, 2017.

SECTION 58. The changes in law made by this Act do not affect a surcharge, additional fee, additional charge, fee increase, tax, or late fee imposed before the effective date of this Act, and the law in effect before the effective date of this Act is continued in effect for purposes of the liability for and collection of those surcharges, additional fees, additional charges, fee increases, taxes, and late fees.

SECTION 59. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 7 was passed by the House on April 28, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 7 on May 29, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 7 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor