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HOUSE

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. _____

BY: 

1 Amend C.S.S.B. No. 1811 (house committee report) by adding
 2 the following appropriately numbered ARTICLE and renumbering
 3 subsequent ARTICLES appropriately:

4 ARTICLE ____ FISCAL MATTERS CONCERNING COST SAVINGS FROM GRANT
 5 PROGRAM

6 SECTION __.01. Chapter 42, Education Code, is amended by
 7 adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER J. TAXPAYERS' SAVINGS GRANTS PROGRAM

9 Sec. 42.501. GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The comptroller shall
 10 establish and administer a Taxpayers' Savings Grants Program
 11 under which the parent or legal guardian of a school-age child
 12 who resides in this state and who is entering kindergarten or
 13 first grade or attended a public school during all of the school
 14 year preceding the year of first participation in the program,
 15 may apply for and receive a grant, to be used only for tuition
 16 at a private elementary or secondary school in this state, that
 17 is the lesser of:

18 (1) the actual cost of tuition at the private school
 19 the student attends; or
 20 (2) 60 percent of the average statewide public
 21 education maintenance and operations expenditure per pupil.

22 (b) A grant awarded under the program is payable from the
 23 Foundation School Program. A grant awarded under the program is

1 not payable from the available school fund or federal funds.
2 After a student initially qualifies for a grant under the
3 program, an individual may continue to receive a grant during
4 each subsequent school year in which the student remains
5 enrolled in a private elementary or secondary school in this
6 state.

7 (c) The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to
8 administer the program, including rules for the counting of
9 grant students in the Foundation School Program, for the annual
10 calculation of cost savings to the state, and for the prevention
11 of fraud in financial transactions under the program.

12 SECTION __.02. The comptroller of public accounts shall
13 adopt initial rules under Subchapter J, Chapter 42, Education
14 Code, as added by this Act, not later than the 45th day after the
15 effective date of this Article. The rules apply beginning with
16 the 2011-2012 school year.

17 SECTION __.03. This Article takes effect immediately if it
18 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
19 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
20 Constitution. If this Article does not receive the vote
21 necessary for immediate effect, this Article takes effect
22 September 1, 2011.