

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 297
By: Ratliff
Finance
1-28-97
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, the financing of the \$30 per student public school technology allotment has been shifted from the Foundation School Program to the Textbook Fund. The Textbook Fund consists of revenues transferred from the Available School fund and covers the costs of textbooks used by school districts every year. Litigation allowing additional Available School Fund revenue to be used to increase the technology allotment is currently pending in court. This bill repeals the provision allowing additional Available School Fund revenue to be used to increase the technology allotment clarifying the state law on the allocation of these funds.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 297 relates to the calculation of the state textbook fund.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 31.021(b), Education Code, to require the State Board of Education to determine the amount of the available school fund to set aside for the state textbook fund based on a requirement to provide an allotment to be distributed to each district equal to \$30 per student in average daily attendance, or a greater amount for any year provided by appropriation, rather than as determined under Subsection (c).

SECTION 2. Repealer: Section 31.021(c), Education Code (State Textbook Fund).

SECTION 3. (a) Provides that if this Act receives votes required by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution, for an effective date before the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session, this Act takes effect immediately, and applies beginning with the 1996-1997 school year. Otherwise this Act takes effect September 1, 1997, and applies beginning with the 1997-1998 school year.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.