

AN ACT

relating to public school admission of military personnel and dependents under reciprocity agreements between states.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.005, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 25.005. RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS REGARDING MILITARY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS. (a) To facilitate the transfer of military personnel and their dependents to and from the public schools of this state, the agency shall [~~may~~] pursue reciprocity agreements with other states governing the terms of those transfers.

(b) A reciprocity agreement must:

(1) address procedures for:

(A) transferring student records;

(B) [~~(2) address procedures for~~] awarding credit for completed course work; and

(C) permitting a student to satisfy the requirements of Section 39.025 through successful performance on comparable exit-level assessment instruments administered in another state; and

(2) [~~(3)~~] include appropriate criteria developed by the agency.

SECTION 2. (a) In implementing Section 25.005, Education

1 Code, as amended by this Act, the Texas Education Agency shall give
2 priority to pursuing reciprocity agreements with Florida, Georgia,
3 North Carolina, and Virginia.

4 (b) Not later than January 1, 2004, the Texas Education
5 Agency shall report the results of its efforts to enter into
6 reciprocity agreements in compliance with Section 25.005,
7 Education Code, as amended by this Act, to the presiding officers of
8 the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations
9 and the House of Representatives Committee on Defense Affairs and
10 State-Federal Relations. If the agency has been unable to enter
11 into a reciprocity agreement with each state identified in
12 Subsection (a) of this section by the date of the report, the report
13 must include, for each state with which the agency did not enter
14 into an agreement:

15 (1) a detailed description of the agency's efforts to
16 reach an agreement; and

17 (2) an explanation of each factor contributing to the
18 failure to reach an agreement.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 591 was passed by the House on April 10, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 591 was passed by the Senate on May 20, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor