

AN ACT

relating to excused absences in public schools for students visiting institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-2) to read as follows:

(b-2) A school district may excuse a student from attending school to visit an institution of higher education accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization during the student's junior and senior years of high school for the purpose of determining the student's interest in attending the institution of higher education, provided that:

(1) the district may not excuse for this purpose more than two days during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year; and

(2) the district adopts:

(A) a policy to determine when an absence will be excused for this purpose; and

(B) a procedure to verify the student's visit at the institution of higher education.

SECTION 2. Section 25.087(c), Education Code, as added by Chapter 479 (H.B. 2455), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b)

1 or (b-2) may not be penalized for that absence and shall be counted  
2 as if the student attended school for purposes of calculating the  
3 average daily attendance of students in the school district. A  
4 student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b) or (b-2)  
5 shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed on  
6 those days. If the student satisfactorily completes the school  
7 work, the day of absence shall be counted as a day of compulsory  
8 attendance.

9 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010  
10 school year.

11 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2542 was passed by the House on April 15, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2542 was passed by the Senate on May 21, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor