

By: Eissler

H.B. No. 2542

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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
senior year 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 more than two days for
this purpose; 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)
or (b-2) may not be penalized for that absence and shall be counted

1 as if the student attended school for purposes of calculating the
2 average daily attendance of students in the school district. A
3 student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b) or (b-2)
4 shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed on
5 those days. If the student satisfactorily completes the school
6 work, the day of absence shall be counted as a day of compulsory
7 attendance.

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

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