

By: Burnam

H.B. No. 128

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to programs to reduce truancy in certain school districts.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 25.096 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.096. TRUANCY REDUCTION PROGRAM. (a) A school district shall establish a program to reduce truancy at a district campus if the student attendance rate at the campus is below 94 percent for at least two consecutive months.

(b) A district required to establish a program under this section shall:

(1) operate the program at least until the monthly student attendance rate at the campus is at or above 94 percent;

(2) designate one or more district employees as truancy caseworkers; and

(3) require the employee or employees designated under Subdivision (2) to:

(A) promptly notify parents of students who are absent from school without excuse;

(B) work cooperatively with parents and students to improve student attendance;

(C) closely monitor the school attendance of students with a history of unexcused absences; and

(D) refer students with a history of unexcused

1 absences and the parents of those students to any appropriate
2 programs or services available to address the underlying causes of
3 the failure to attend school.

4 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004
5 school year.

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