

By: Wise

H.B. No. 137

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to parental notification of a child's absence from school.

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. IMMEDIATE NOTICE OF ABSENCE. (a) Not later than one hour after a school district determines a student is absent from school without excuse, the district shall attempt to notify the student's parent by telephone of the absence.

(b) A school district that is unable to notify a parent by telephone within the time period prescribed by this section shall:

(1) make at least one subsequent attempt to notify the parent by telephone during the school day; and

(2) if subsequent attempts during the school day are unsuccessful, send written notice to the parent not later than the next school day.

(c) A school district shall, on the day of the absence, send written notice to the parent of a student who is absent from school without excuse if the district does not have a telephone number at which the parent may be contacted.

(d) In this section, "parent" includes a person standing in parental relation.

SECTION 2. Section 25.095(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

1           (c) The fact that a parent did not receive a notice under  
2 Subsection (a) or (b) or Section 25.096 does not create a defense  
3 to prosecution under Section 25.093 or 25.094.

4           SECTION 3. Section 25.096, Education Code, as added by this  
5 Act, applies beginning with the 2003-2004 school year.

6           SECTION 4. 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.