

By: Goodman

H.B. No. 234

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the payment of support for a child after the child's 18th birthday.

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

SECTION 1. Section 154.002(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The [~~If the child is fully enrolled in an accredited secondary school in a program leading toward a high school diploma or enrolled in courses for joint high school and junior college credit pursuant to Section 130.008, Education Code, the~~] court may render an original support order, or modify an existing order, providing child support past the 18th birthday of the child to be paid only if the child is:

(1) enrolled:

(A) under Chapter 25, Education Code, in an accredited secondary school in a program leading toward a high school diploma; or

(B) in courses for joint high school and junior college credit under Section 130.008, Education Code; and

(2) complying with the minimum attendance requirements of Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Education Code.

SECTION 2. Section 154.006(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Unless otherwise agreed in writing or expressly

1 provided in the order or as provided by Subsection (b), the child  
2 support order terminates on:

3 (1) the marriage of the child; [~~7~~]

4 (2) the removal of the child's disabilities for  
5 general purposes; [~~7-07~~]

6 (3) the death of:

7 (A) the child; or

8 (B) a parent ordered to pay child support; or

9 (4) a finding by a court that the child:

10 (A) is 18 years of age or older; and

11 (B) has failed to comply with the enrollment or  
12 attendance requirements described by Section 154.002(a).

13 SECTION 3. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

14 (b) The change in law made by this Act applies only to a  
15 court order or portion of a decree that provides for the support of  
16 a child rendered or modified on or after the effective date of this  
17 Act. An order or decree rendered or modified before the effective  
18 date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
19 order or decree was rendered or modified, and the former law is  
20 continued in effect for that purpose.