

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 617

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of public school transportation systems.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (b), Section 34.007, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) In establishing and operating the transportation system, the county or school district board:

(1) shall employ school bus drivers certified in accordance with standards and qualifications adopted by the Department of Public Safety; and

(2) may allow a parent to designate one of the following locations [~~a child-care facility, as defined by Section 42.002, Human Resources Code,~~] instead of the child's residence as the regular location for purposes of obtaining transportation under the system to and from the child's school:

(A) a child-care facility, as defined by Section 42.002, Human Resources Code; or

(B) the residence of a grandparent of the child.

SECTION 2. Subsection (k), Section 42.155, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the commissioner may not reduce the allotment to which a district or county is entitled under this section because the district or county provides transportation for an eligible student to and from

1 a child-care facility, as defined by Section 42.002, Human
2 Resources Code, or a grandparent's residence instead of the
3 student's residence, as authorized by Section 34.007, if the
4 transportation is provided within the approved routes of the
5 district or county for the school the student attends.

6 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004
7 school year.

8 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.