

By: Van de Putte, Shapleigh, Zaffirini

S.B. No. 25

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of children of certain military personnel for free prekindergarten classes.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.153, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(b) A child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class under this section if the child is at least three years of age and is:

(1) unable to speak and comprehend the English language;

(2) educationally disadvantaged; ~~or~~

(3) homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11302, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child;

(4) the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or

(5) the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while

1 serving on active duty.

2 (f) A child who is eligible for enrollment in a
3 prekindergarten class under Subsection (b)(4) or (5) remains
4 eligible for enrollment if the child's parent leaves the armed
5 forces, or is no longer on active duty, after the child begins a
6 prekindergarten class.

7 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2006-2007
8 school year.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
14 legislative session.