

By: Delisi, Escobar

H.B. No. 25

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 25:

By: Herrero

C.S.H.B. No. 25

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to transition assistance within the public school system for school-age dependents of military personnel and other students.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 25, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 25.006 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.006. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY DEPENDENTS. (a) The legislature finds that:

(1) school-age dependents of military personnel are faced with numerous transitions during their formative years; and

(2) military dependents who move from one school to another during the high school years are faced with special challenges to learning and future achievement.

(b) In recognition of the challenges faced by military dependents and the importance of military families to our community and economy, the agency shall assist the transition of military students from one school to another by:

(1) improving the timely transfer of student records;

(2) developing systems to ease student transition during the first two weeks of enrollment at a new school;

(3) promoting practices that foster student access to extracurricular programs;

(4) establishing procedures to lessen the adverse impact of student moves to a new school after the end of the

1 student's junior year of high school;

2 (5) encouraging or maintaining partnerships between  
3 military bases and affected school districts;

4 (6) encouraging school districts to provide services  
5 for military students in transition when applying for admission to  
6 postsecondary study and when seeking sources of funding for  
7 postsecondary study; and

8 (7) providing other assistance as identified by the  
9 agency.

10 SECTION 2. Section 25.002, Education Code, is amended by  
11 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as  
12 follows:

13 (a) If [~~Not later than the 30th day after the date~~] a parent  
14 or other person with legal control of a child under a court order  
15 enrolls the child in a public school, the parent or other person or  
16 the school district in which the child most recently attended  
17 school shall furnish to the school district:

18 (1) the child's birth certificate or another document  
19 suitable as proof of the child's identity;

20 (2) a copy of the child's records from the school the  
21 child most recently attended if the child has been previously  
22 enrolled in a school in this state or another state; and

23 (3) a record showing that the child has the  
24 immunizations as required under Section 38.001, in the case of a  
25 child required under that section to be immunized, proof as  
26 required by that section showing that the child is not required to  
27 be immunized, or proof that the child is entitled to provisional

1 admission under that section and under rules adopted under that  
2 section.

3 (a-1) Information a school district furnishes under  
4 Subsection (a) must be furnished by the district not later than the  
5 10th day after the date a request for information is received by the  
6 school district. Information a parent or other person with legal  
7 control of a child under a court order furnishes under Subsection  
8 (a) must be furnished by the parent or other person not later than  
9 the 30th day after the date a child is enrolled in a public school.  
10 If a parent or other person with legal control of a child under a  
11 court order requests that a district transfer a child's student  
12 records, the district to which the request is made shall notify the  
13 parent or other person as soon as practicable that the parent or  
14 other person may request and receive an unofficial copy of the  
15 records for delivery in person to a school in another district.

16 SECTION 3. Sections 28.025(c) and (d), Education Code, are  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (c) A person may receive a diploma if the person is eligible  
19 for a diploma under Section 28.0251. In other cases, a student may  
20 graduate and receive a diploma only if:

21 (1) the student successfully completes the curriculum  
22 requirements identified by the State Board of Education under  
23 Subsection (a) and complies with Section 39.025 [~~39.025(a)~~]; or

24 (2) the student successfully completes an  
25 individualized education program developed under Section 29.005.

26 (d) A school district may issue a certificate of coursework  
27 completion to a student who successfully completes the curriculum

1 requirements identified by the State Board of Education under  
2 Subsection (a) but who fails to comply with Section 39.025  
3 [~~39.025(a)~~]. A school district may allow a student who receives a  
4 certificate to participate in a graduation ceremony with students  
5 receiving high school diplomas.

6 SECTION 4. Sections 30.104(b) and (c), Education Code, are  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (b) A student may graduate and receive a diploma from a  
9 Texas Youth Commission educational program if:

10 (1) the student successfully completes the curriculum  
11 requirements identified by the State Board of Education under  
12 Section 28.025(a) and complies with Section 39.025 [~~39.025(a)~~]; or

13 (2) the student successfully completes the curriculum  
14 requirements under Section 28.025(a) as modified by an  
15 individualized education program developed under Section 29.005.

16 (c) A Texas Youth Commission educational program may issue a  
17 certificate of course-work completion to a student who successfully  
18 completes the curriculum requirements identified by the State Board  
19 of Education under Section 28.025(a) but who fails to comply with  
20 Section 39.025 [~~39.025(a)~~].

21 SECTION 5. Section 39.025, Education Code, is amended by  
22 adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

23 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the commissioner by  
24 rule shall adopt one or more alternative nationally recognized norm  
25 referenced assessment instruments under this section to administer  
26 to a student to qualify for a high school diploma if the student  
27 enrolls after January 1 of the school year in which the student is

1 otherwise eligible to graduate:

2 (1) for the first time in a public school in this  
3 state; or

4 (2) after an absence of at least four years from any  
5 public school in this state.

6 (e) The commissioner shall establish a required performance  
7 level for an assessment instrument adopted under Subsection (d)  
8 that is at least as rigorous as the performance level for the  
9 secondary exit-level assessment instrument for the same subject.

10 SECTION 6. Not later than January 1, 2006, the Texas  
11 Education Agency shall report the results of its efforts to  
12 implement Section 25.006, Education Code, as added by this Act, to  
13 the presiding officers of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs  
14 and Military Installations and the House of Representatives  
15 Committee on Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations.

16 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.