

By: Truitt

H.B. No. 577

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to use of the term "meteorologist"; creating an offense.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 12, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 1959 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 1959. METEOROLOGISTS

Sec. 1959.001. USE OF TERM "METEOROLOGIST." (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a person may not represent to others that the person is a meteorologist or use the term "meteorologist" to describe the person on a television or radio broadcast in this state or in any other print or electronic media produced in this state unless that person has graduated from a course of study in an accredited degree program in meteorology, atmospheric science, or other natural science that includes:

(1) at least 24 semester hours of credit in meteorology or atmospheric science, including at least:

(A) six semester credit hours of course work in atmospheric dynamics and thermodynamics;

(B) six semester credit hours of course work in analysis and prediction of weather systems (synoptic/mesoscale);

and

(C) three semester credit hours of course work in physical meteorology;

(2) six semester credit hours of course work in

1 physics, with at least one course that includes laboratory
2 sessions;

3 (3) three semester credit hours of course work in
4 ordinary differential equations; and

5 (4) at least nine semester credit hours of course work
6 appropriate for a physical science major in any combination of at
7 least three of the following subjects:

8 (A) physical hydrology;

9 (B) statistics;

10 (C) chemistry;

11 (D) physical oceanography;

12 (E) physical climatology;

13 (F) radiative transfer;

14 (G) aeronomy;

15 (H) advanced thermodynamics;

16 (I) advanced electricity and magnetism;

17 (J) light and optics; and

18 (K) computer science.

19 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a representation by a
20 person who has received training substantially equivalent to the
21 course of study described by Subsection (a) while serving as a
22 member of the United States armed forces.

23 (c) A person commits an offense if the person violates this
24 section. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.