

By: Oliveira

H.B. No. 745

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to free prekindergarten programs for certain children.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 29.153(c) and (d), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c) A prekindergarten class under this section shall be operated on a full-day [~~half-day~~] basis. A district is not required to provide transportation for a prekindergarten class, but transportation, if provided, is included for funding purposes as part of the regular transportation system.

(d) On application of a district, the commissioner may exempt a district from the application of this section if the district would be required to construct classroom facilities in order to provide prekindergarten classes. The commissioner may not grant an exemption under this section for the 2007-2008 school year or a later school year. This subsection expires August 1, 2007.

SECTION 2. Section 29.1531(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A school district may offer on a tuition basis or use district funds to provide[+]

~~[(1) an additional half-day of prekindergarten classes to children eligible for classes under Section 29.153, and~~

~~[(2)] half-day and full-day prekindergarten classes to children not eligible for classes under Section 29.153.~~

1 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2005-2006
2 school year.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.