

By: Corte

H.B. No. 2335

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to certain duties of state agencies with regard to members
3 of the United States armed forces and their dependents and the
4 communities in which they reside.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 7, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 7.029 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 7.029. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN OF CERTAIN
9 MILITARY PERSONNEL. (a) The agency shall identify states and
10 schools operated by the United States Department of Defense from
11 which a significant number of students are transferring to school
12 districts in this state following the closure or realignment of a
13 military base in the state containing the school operated by the
14 United States Department of Defense under the Defense Base Closure
15 and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. Section 2687).

16 (b) The agency shall:

17 (1) provide appropriate transition assistance for
18 students transferring to school districts in this state from a
19 state or a school operated by the United States Department of
20 Defense identified under Subsection (a); and

21 (2) pursue appropriate education reciprocity
22 agreements with the United States Department of Defense and each
23 state identified under Subsection (a), giving priority to
24 agreements with states generating the largest number of transfer

1 students.

2 (c) Not later than January 1 of each year, the agency shall
3 report the results of its efforts to enter into reciprocity
4 agreements in compliance with this section to the presiding
5 officers of the standing committees of the senate and house of
6 representatives with primary authority over military and education
7 issues.

8 SECTION 2. Section 21.052(a), Education Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (a) The board may issue a certificate to an educator who:

11 (1) holds:

12 (A) a degree issued by an institution accredited
13 by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a
14 nationally recognized accreditation board; or

15 (B) a degree issued by an institution located in
16 a foreign country, if the degree is equivalent to a degree described
17 by Paragraph (A);

18 (2) holds an appropriate certificate or other
19 credential issued by another state or country or the United States
20 Department of Defense; and

21 (3) performs satisfactorily on:

22 (A) the examination prescribed under Section
23 21.048; or

24 (B) if the educator holds a certificate or other
25 credential issued by another state or country or the United States
26 Department of Defense, an examination similar to and at least as
27 rigorous as that described by Paragraph (A) administered to the

1 educator under the authority of that state or country or the United
2 States Department of Defense.

3 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
4 amended by adding Section 21.0521 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 21.0521. CERTIFICATION OF CERTAIN DEPENDENTS OF
6 MILITARY PERSONNEL. (a) The board shall issue a one-year educator
7 certificate to a person who is a dependent of military personnel,
8 applies for a certificate under this section, and meets the
9 requirements for educator certification under Section 21.052. A
10 one-year certificate issued under this section expires on the first
11 anniversary of the date the certificate is issued. The board shall
12 charge the dependent a fee of not more than:

13 (1) \$25 for the one-year certificate; and

14 (2) \$50 for a review of the dependent's educator
15 certificate from another jurisdiction.

16 (b) The board shall identify states from which a significant
17 number of teachers are applying for a one-year educator
18 certificate. The board shall pursue reciprocity agreements
19 relating to teacher certification with the United States Department
20 of Defense and each state identified under this subsection, giving
21 priority to agreements with states generating the largest number of
22 teachers applying for a one-year educator certificate.

23 (c) Not later than January 1 of each year, the board shall
24 report the results of its efforts to enter into reciprocity
25 agreements in compliance with this section to the presiding
26 officers of the standing committees of the senate and house of
27 representatives with primary authority over military and education

1 issues.

2 SECTION 4. Subchapter F, Chapter 401, Government Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 401.105 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 401.105. ASSISTANCE TO DEFENSE COMMUNITIES. The
5 office of the governor shall provide information to defense base
6 communities about economic development incentives and
7 opportunities offered by the state and how the communities may take
8 advantage of those opportunities.

9 SECTION 5. Chapter 486, Government Code, is amended by
10 adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

11 SUBCHAPTER D. STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

12 Sec. 486.151. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

13 (1) "Defense community" has the meaning assigned by
14 Section 397.001, Local Government Code.

15 (2) "State agency" means a department, commission,
16 board, office, authority, council, or other agency in the executive
17 branch of state government, including a university system or
18 institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003,
19 Education Code.

20 Sec. 486.152. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM. Each state agency
21 shall assess its programs and determine the effect of these
22 programs on defense communities that have been adversely or
23 positively affected by defense base closure or realignment
24 decisions made in 2005.

25 Sec. 486.153. STATE AGENCY LIAISON. (a) A state agency
26 that determines that one or more of its programs has an effect on a
27 defense community as described by Section 486.152 shall appoint one

1 or more agency employees to serve as a liaison between the agency
2 and the defense community and base-transition representatives.

3 (b) Not later than January 1, 2006, an agency liaison under
4 Subsection (a) shall contact each defense community affected by a
5 base closure or realignment in 2005 and provide information
6 regarding agency services available to defense communities,
7 displaced workers, and incoming military service members and their
8 families, as applicable.

9 Sec. 486.154. REPORTS. A state agency described by Section
10 486.153 shall include in its annual report under Section 2101.0115
11 a description of:

12 (1) the steps the agency has taken to assist defense
13 communities and military service members and their dependents after
14 a base closure or realignment and the tangible results of these
15 efforts in each community; and

16 (2) the agency's ongoing efforts to assist defense
17 communities in the future.

18 Sec. 486.155. EXPIRATION OF SUBCHAPTER. This subchapter
19 expires September 1, 2007.

20 SECTION 6. (a) Subchapter G, Chapter 505, Occupations
21 Code, is amended by adding Sections 505.3531 and 505.3532 to read as
22 follows:

23 Sec. 505.3531. HOURS OF REQUIRED SUPERVISION. (a) A person
24 who is a member of the United States armed forces or who is the
25 dependent of a person who is a member of the United States armed
26 forces is entitled to receive credit for any hours of required
27 supervision that are earned in another state or country in order to

1 fulfill the eligibility requirements provided under Section
2 505.353 or rules adopted under this chapter.

3 (b) The board shall accept the hours of required supervision
4 of a person who qualifies for credit under Subsection (a) without
5 requiring preapproval of the hours.

6 Sec. 505.3532. RECIPROCAL LICENSE. (a) The board may waive
7 any license requirement for an applicant after reviewing the
8 applicant's credentials and determining that the applicant holds a
9 license from another state that has license requirements
10 substantially equivalent to those of this state.

11 (b) The board shall complete the processing of an
12 application for a license under this section not later than the 30th
13 day after the date the application is submitted to the board.

14 (c) Not later than January 1 of each year, the board shall
15 file a report with the presiding officers of the standing
16 committees of the senate and house of representatives with primary
17 authority over military issues and occupational licensing issues
18 relating to reciprocal licenses. The report must include the
19 number of applications filed, the number of licenses issued, and
20 the state in which the applicant was licensed before applying under
21 this section.

22 (b) The change in law made by this Act governing eligibility
23 of a person for a license under Chapter 505, Occupations Code,
24 applies only to a license application filed with the Texas State
25 Board of Social Worker Examiners under Chapter 505, Occupations
26 Code, as amended by this Act, on or after the effective date of this
27 Act. A license application filed before the effective date of this

1 Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the application was
2 filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

3 SECTION 7. Subchapter D, Chapter 201, Transportation Code,
4 is amended by adding Section 201.210 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 201.210. COOPERATION WITH MILITARY COMMUNITIES. The
6 department shall initiate efforts to cooperate with a community in
7 which a military base is located to develop a long-range and a
8 short-range transportation plan in order to make the traffic flow
9 within the community more efficient and make the military
10 transportation needs of the base a priority. In determining the
11 transportation needs of the community, the department shall
12 consider:

- 13 (1) the input of members of the community; and
14 (2) the character and extent of the military
15 operations conducted at the base.

16 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.