

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 countries from which a significant number of students are  
11 transferring to school districts in this state following the  
12 closure or realignment of a military base in the state or country  
13 under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10  
14 U.S.C. Section 2687).

15 (b) The agency shall:

16 (1) provide appropriate transition assistance for  
17 students transferring to school districts in this state from a  
18 state or country identified under Subsection (a); and

19 (2) adopt appropriate education reciprocity  
20 agreements with each state identified under Subsection (a), giving  
21 priority to agreements with states generating the largest number of  
22 transfer students.

23 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is  
24 amended by adding Section 21.0521 to read as follows:

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

9               (1) \$25 for the temporary certificate; and

10              (2) \$50 for a review of the dependent's educator  
11 certificate from another jurisdiction.

12       (b) The board may enter into a reciprocity agreement with a  
13 person who is a dependent of military personnel and holds an  
14 educator certificate issued by the United States Department of  
15 Defense. The reciprocity agreement must provide that the dependent  
16 is subject to the same requirements and benefits as a dependent  
17 described by Subsection (a).

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

20       Sec. 401.105. ASSISTANCE TO DEFENSE COMMUNITIES. The  
21 office of the governor shall provide information to defense base  
22 communities about economic development incentives and  
23 opportunities offered by the state and how the communities may take  
24 advantage of those opportunities.

25       SECTION 4. Chapter 486, Government Code, is amended by  
26 adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

1           SUBCHAPTER D. STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

2           Sec. 486.151. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

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

5           (2) "State agency" means a department, commission,  
6 board, office, authority, council, or other agency in the executive  
7 branch of state government, including a university system or  
8 institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003,  
9 Education Code.

10          Sec. 486.152. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM. Each state agency  
11 shall assess its programs and determine the effect of these  
12 programs on defense communities that have been adversely or  
13 positively affected by defense base closure or realignment  
14 decisions made in 2005.

15          Sec. 486.153. STATE AGENCY LIAISON. (a) A state agency  
16 that determines that one or more of its programs has an effect on a  
17 defense community as described by Section 486.152 shall appoint one  
18 or more agency employees to serve as a liaison between the agency  
19 and the defense community and base-transition representatives.

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

26          Sec. 486.154. REPORTS. A state agency described by Section  
27 486.153 shall include in its annual report under Section 2101.0115

1 a description of:

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

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

8 Sec. 486.155. This subchapter expires September 1, 2007.

9 SECTION 5. Subchapter F, Chapter 301, Occupations Code, is  
10 amended by adding Section 301.2595 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 301.2595. RECIPROCAL LICENSE FOR MILITARY MEMBERS OR  
12 DEPENDENTS. On payment of a fee established by the board, the board  
13 shall issue a license to practice as a registered nurse or  
14 vocational nurse in this state by endorsement without examination  
15 to an applicant who:

16 (1) holds a registration certificate as a registered  
17 nurse or vocational nurse, as applicable, issued by another state  
18 of the United States; and

19 (2) is on active duty or based in this state as a  
20 member of the United States armed forces or is a dependent of a  
21 member of the United States armed forces on active duty or based in  
22 this state.

23 SECTION 6. (a) Subchapter G, Chapter 505, Occupations  
24 Code, is amended by adding Section 505.3531 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 505.3531. HOURS OF REQUIRED SUPERVISION. (a) A person  
26 who is a member of the United States armed forces or who is the  
27 dependent of a person who is a member of the United States armed

1 forces is entitled to receive credit for any hours of required  
2 supervision that are earned in another state or country in order to  
3 fulfill the eligibility requirements provided under Section  
4 505.353 or rules adopted under this chapter.

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

8 (b) The change in law made by this Act governing eligibility  
9 of a person for a license under Chapter 505, Occupations Code,  
10 applies only to a license application filed with the Texas State  
11 Board of Social Worker Examiners under Chapter 505, Occupations  
12 Code, as amended by this Act, on or after the effective date of this  
13 Act. A license application filed before the effective date of this  
14 Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the application was  
15 filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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

18 Sec. 201.210. COOPERATION WITH MILITARY COMMUNITIES. The  
19 department shall initiate efforts to cooperate with a community in  
20 which a military base is located to develop a long-range and a  
21 short-range transportation plan in order to make the traffic flow  
22 within the community more efficient and make the military  
23 transportation needs of the base a priority. In determining the  
24 transportation needs of the community, the department shall  
25 consider:

- 26 (1) the input of members of the community; and  
27 (2) the character and extent of the military

1 operations conducted at the base.

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