

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 656

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reducing the time management burdens imposed on classroom teachers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.4011 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.4011. MAXIMUM WORKDAY; MEETINGS. (a) A workday for a classroom teacher may not be more than 30 minutes longer than the instructional day.

(b) Except in the case of an emergency, a classroom teacher must be given at least 24 hours' notice of any meeting that is held outside of the teacher's regular workday as provided under Subsection (a). The commissioner by rule shall define an emergency for purposes of this subsection.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a classroom teacher may not be required to attend more than one meeting each week that is held outside of the teacher's regular workday as provided under Subsection (a).

SECTION 2. Section 21.404, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21.404. PLANNING AND PREPARATION TIME. (a) Each classroom teacher is entitled to at least 450 minutes within each two-week period for instructional preparation, including parent-teacher conferences, evaluating students' work, and

1 planning. A planning and preparation period under this section may
2 not be less than 45 minutes within the instructional day. During a
3 planning and preparation period, a classroom teacher may not be
4 required to participate in any other activity.

5 (b) Each school district shall schedule at least one
6 two-hour period each month during the regular workday for teachers
7 to plan and collaborate with other teachers who teach the same
8 subject or grade level.

9 (c) To allow teachers additional preparation and planning
10 time, each school district and school shall establish a volunteer
11 program under which volunteers perform most routine nonteaching
12 duties, including performing clerical duties, monitoring students
13 in the cafeteria, and performing routine before-school and
14 after-school duties such as monitoring students at bus stops.

15 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2005-2006
16 school year.

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