

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 296

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to limits on the size of prekindergarten classes in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 25.112(a) and (d), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as otherwise authorized by this section, a school district may not enroll more than 18 students in a prekindergarten class or 22 students in a kindergarten, first, second, third, or fourth grade class. A limit imposed by this subsection [~~That limitation~~] does not apply during:

(1) any 12-week period of the school year selected by the district, in the case of a district whose average daily attendance is adjusted under Section 42.005(c); or

(2) the last 12 weeks of any school year in the case of any other district.

(d) On application of a school district, the commissioner may except the district from a [~~the~~] limit imposed by [~~in~~] Subsection (a) if the commissioner finds the limit works an undue hardship on the district. An exception expires at the end of the semester for which it is granted, and the commissioner may not grant an exception for ~~+~~

~~(1)~~ more than one semester at a time.

SECTION 2. Section 25.113(a), Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (a) A campus or district that is granted an exception under
3 Section 25.112(d) from class size limits shall provide written
4 notice of the exception to the parent of or person standing in
5 parental relation to each student affected by the exception. The
6 notice must be in conspicuous bold or underlined print and:

7 (1) specify the class for which an exception from a
8 [~~the~~] limit imposed by Section 25.112(a) was granted;

9 (2) state the number of children in the class for which
10 the exception was granted; and

11 (3) be included in a regular mailing or other
12 communication from the campus or district, such as information sent
13 home with students.

14 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning in the 2007-2008
15 school year.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.