

By: Smith of Harris

H.B. No. 557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the failure of a parent to attend a public school parent-teacher conference; providing a criminal penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 26, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 26.014 to read as follows:

Sec. 26.014. FAILURE TO ATTEND PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE.

(a) A parent of a student commits an offense if:

(1) the parent receives written notice by certified mail of at least three proposed dates from which the parent can choose for scheduling a parent-teacher conference between the parent and the student's teacher;

(2) the parent:

(A) fails to respond to the notice; or

(B) schedules a parent-teacher conference on one of the dates proposed in the notice or on an alternative date agreed to by the parent and teacher and fails to:

(i) attend the scheduled conference; or

(ii) before the scheduled conference, notify the teacher or an administrator of the campus to which the teacher is assigned that the parent will be unable to attend the conference; and

(3) in the case of a student with more than one parent, another parent of the student does not attend a parent-teacher

1 conference scheduled in accordance with this subsection.

2 (b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

3 (c) An offense under this section may be prosecuted in a
4 court in which an offense under Section 25.094(b) may be
5 prosecuted.

6 (d) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this
7 section that the parent had a reasonable excuse for failing to
8 attend the parent-teacher conference.

9 (e) The clerk of the court in which an offense under this
10 section is prosecuted shall transfer the proceeds of any fine
11 collected by the court under this section to the school district
12 that employs the teacher with whom the parent was scheduled to meet
13 in the parent-teacher conference. The district may use funds
14 collected under this section only to:

15 (1) provide additional compensation to classroom
16 teachers in the district; or

17 (2) purchase school supplies other than textbooks as
18 defined by Section 31.002.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.