

By: Howard of Fort Bend, Bonnen

H.B. No. 1844

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the administration of certain tests to home-schooled
3 students by school districts.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 29.916 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 29.916. HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENT MERIT SCHOLARSHIP AND
8 ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING. (a) In this section:

9 (1) "Home-schooled student" means a student who
10 predominantly receives instruction in a general elementary or
11 secondary education program that is provided by the parent, or a
12 person standing in parental authority, in or through the child's
13 home.

14 (2) "PSAT/NMSQT" means the Preliminary SAT/National
15 Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test sponsored by the College Board
16 and Educational Testing Service and the National Merit Scholarship
17 Corporation.

18 (b) A school district shall permit a home-schooled student
19 entitled under Section 25.001 to attend public school in the
20 district to participate in an administration of the PSAT/NMSQT or a
21 college advanced placement test offered by the district. A school
22 district shall require a home-schooled student to pay the same fee
23 to participate in a test under this subsection that a student
24 enrolled in the district is required to pay.

1 (c) A school district shall post on an Internet website
2 maintained by the district the date the PSAT/NMSQT will be
3 administered and the date any college advanced placement tests will
4 be administered. The notice required under this subsection must
5 state that the PSAT/NMSQT or the advanced placement test is
6 available for home-schooled students eligible to attend school in
7 the district and describe the procedures for a home-schooled
8 student to register for the test. A school district that does not
9 maintain an Internet website must publish the information required
10 by this subsection in a newspaper in the district. If a newspaper is
11 not published in the school district, the district shall provide
12 for the publication of notice in at least one newspaper in the
13 county in which the district's central administrative office is
14 located. The information required under this subsection must be
15 posted or published at the same time and with the same frequency
16 with which the information is provided to a student who attends a
17 district school.

18 (d) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
19 implement this section.

20 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008
21 school year.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.