

1-1 By: Howard of Fort Bend, Bonnen H.B. No. 1844
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Janek)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 23, 2007;
1-4 April 26, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-5 Education; May 8, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-6 Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 8, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to the administration of certain tests to home-schooled
1-10 students by school districts.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
1-13 amended by adding Section 29.916 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 29.916. HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENT MERIT SCHOLARSHIP AND
1-15 ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING. (a) In this section:

1-16 (1) "Home-schooled student" means a student who
1-17 predominantly receives instruction in a general elementary or
1-18 secondary education program that is provided by the parent, or a
1-19 person standing in parental authority, in or through the child's
1-20 home.

1-21 (2) "PSAT/NMSQT" means the Preliminary SAT/National
1-22 Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test sponsored by the College Board
1-23 and Educational Testing Service and the National Merit Scholarship
1-24 Corporation.

1-25 (b) A school district shall permit a home-schooled student
1-26 entitled under Section 25.001 to attend public school in the
1-27 district to participate in an administration of the PSAT/NMSQT or a
1-28 college advanced placement test offered by the district. A school
1-29 district shall require a home-schooled student to pay the same fee
1-30 to participate in a test under this subsection that a student
1-31 enrolled in the district is required to pay.

1-32 (c) A school district shall post on an Internet website
1-33 maintained by the district the date the PSAT/NMSQT will be
1-34 administered and the date any college advanced placement tests will
1-35 be administered. The notice required under this subsection must
1-36 state that the PSAT/NMSQT or the advanced placement test is
1-37 available for home-schooled students eligible to attend school in
1-38 the district and describe the procedures for a home-schooled
1-39 student to register for the test. A school district that does not
1-40 maintain an Internet website must publish the information required
1-41 by this subsection in a newspaper in the district. If a newspaper is
1-42 not published in the school district, the district shall provide
1-43 for the publication of notice in at least one newspaper in the
1-44 county in which the district's central administrative office is
1-45 located. The information required under this subsection must be
1-46 posted or published at the same time and with the same frequency
1-47 with which the information is provided to a student who attends a
1-48 district school.

1-49 (d) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
1-50 implement this section.

1-51 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008
1-52 school year.

1-53 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-54 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-55 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-56 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-57 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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