

Amend CSSB 1234 (house committee printing) by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the bill and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS accordingly:

SECTION _____. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 25.0916 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.0916. UNIFORM TRUANCY POLICIES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES.

(a) This section applies only to a county:

(1) with a population greater than 1.5 million; and

(2) that includes at least:

(A) 15 school districts with the majority of district territory in the county; and

(B) one school district with a student enrollment of 50,000 or more and an annual dropout rate spanning grades 9-12 of at least five percent, computed in accordance with standards and definitions adopted by the National Center for Education Statistics of the United States Department of Education.

(b) A committee shall be established to recommend a uniform truancy policy for each school district located in the county.

(c) Not later than September 1, 2013, the county judge and the mayor of the municipality in the county with the greatest population shall each appoint one member to serve on the committee as a representative of each of the following:

(1) a juvenile district court;

(2) a municipal court;

(3) the office of a justice of the peace;

(4) the superintendent or designee of an independent school district;

(5) an open-enrollment charter school;

(6) the office of the district attorney; and

(7) the general public.

(d) Not later than September 1, 2013, the county judge shall appoint to serve on the committee one member from the house of representatives and one member from the senate who are members of the respective standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over public education.

(e) The county judge and mayor of the municipality in the county with the greatest population shall:

(1) both serve on the committee or appoint representatives to serve on their behalf; and

(2) jointly appoint a member of the committee to serve as the presiding officer.

(f) Not later than September 1, 2014, the committee shall recommend:

(1) a uniform process for filing truancy cases with the judicial system;

(2) uniform administrative procedures;

(3) uniform deadlines for processing truancy cases;

(4) effective prevention, intervention, and diversion methods to reduce truancy and referrals to a county, justice, or municipal court;

(5) a system for tracking truancy information and sharing truancy information among school districts and open-enrollment charter schools in the county; and

(6) any changes to statutes or state agency rules the committee determines are necessary to address truancy.

(g) Compliance with the committee recommendations is voluntary.

(h) The committee's presiding officer shall issue a report not later than December 1, 2015, on the implementation of the recommendations and compliance with state truancy laws by a school district located in the county.

(i) This section expires January 1, 2016.