

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 1479

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1479:

By: Aycock

C.S.H.B. No. 1479

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to establishing a committee in certain counties to
3 recommend a uniform truancy policy.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 25.0916 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 25.0916. UNIFORM TRUANCY POLICIES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES.

8 (a) This section applies only to a county:

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

10 (2) that includes at least:

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

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

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

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

24 (1) a juvenile district court;

1 (2) a municipal court;

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

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

5 (5) an open-enrollment charter school;

6 (6) the office of the district attorney; and

7 (7) the general public.

8 (d) Not later than September 1, 2013, the county judge shall
9 appoint one member to serve on the committee from the house of
10 representatives who is a member of the standing legislative
11 committee with primary jurisdiction over public education.

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

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

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

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

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

22 (2) uniform administrative procedures;

23 (3) uniform deadlines for processing truancy cases;

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

27 (5) a system for tracking truancy information and

1 sharing truancy information among school districts and
2 open-enrollment charter schools in the county; and

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

5 (g) Compliance with the committee recommendations is
6 voluntary.

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

11 (i) This section expires January 1, 2016.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.