

1-1 By: Villarreal (Senate Sponsor - Van de Putte) H.B. No. 1479
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 22, 2013;
 1-3 April 24, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Education; May 17, 2013, reported adversely, with favorable
 1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0;
 1-6 May 17, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	Patrick	X		
1-10	Lucio	X		
1-11	Campbell	X		
1-12	Duncan	X		
1-13	Paxton		X	
1-14	Seliger	X		
1-15	Taylor	X		
1-16	Van de Putte		X	
1-17	West	X		

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1479 By: Campbell

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to establishing a committee in certain counties to
 1-22 recommend a uniform truancy policy.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Education Code, is
 1-25 amended by adding Section 25.0916 to read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 25.0916. UNIFORM TRUANCY POLICIES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES.

1-27 (a) This section applies only to a county:

1-28 (1) with a population greater than 1.5 million; and

1-29 (2) that includes at least:

1-30 (A) 15 school districts with the majority of
 1-31 district territory in the county; and

1-32 (B) one school district with a student enrollment
 1-33 of 50,000 or more and an annual dropout rate spanning grades 9-12 of
 1-34 at least five percent, computed in accordance with standards and
 1-35 definitions adopted by the National Center for Education Statistics
 1-36 of the United States Department of Education.

1-37 (b) A committee shall be established to recommend a uniform
 1-38 truancy policy for each school district located in the county.

1-39 (c) Not later than September 1, 2013, the county judge and
 1-40 the mayor of the municipality in the county with the greatest
 1-41 population shall each appoint one member to serve on the committee
 1-42 as a representative of each of the following:

1-43 (1) a juvenile district court;

1-44 (2) a municipal court;

1-45 (3) the office of a justice of the peace;

1-46 (4) the superintendent or designee of an independent
 1-47 school district;

1-48 (5) an open-enrollment charter school;

1-49 (6) the office of the district attorney; and

1-50 (7) the general public.

1-51 (d) Not later than September 1, 2013, the county judge shall
 1-52 appoint to serve on the committee one member from the house of
 1-53 representatives and one member from the senate who are members of
 1-54 the respective standing legislative committees with primary
 1-55 jurisdiction over public education.

1-56 (e) The county judge and mayor of the municipality in the
 1-57 county with the greatest population shall:

1-58 (1) both serve on the committee or appoint
 1-59 representatives to serve on their behalf; and

1-60 (2) jointly appoint a member of the committee to serve

2-1 as the presiding officer.
 2-2 (f) Not later than September 1, 2014, the committee shall
 2-3 recommend:
 2-4 (1) a uniform process for filing truancy cases with
 2-5 the judicial system;
 2-6 (2) uniform administrative procedures;
 2-7 (3) uniform deadlines for processing truancy cases;
 2-8 (4) effective prevention, intervention, and diversion
 2-9 methods to reduce truancy and referrals to a county, justice, or
 2-10 municipal court;
 2-11 (5) a system for tracking truancy information and
 2-12 sharing truancy information among school districts and
 2-13 open-enrollment charter schools in the county; and
 2-14 (6) any changes to statutes or state agency rules the
 2-15 committee determines are necessary to address truancy.
 2-16 (g) Compliance with the committee recommendations is
 2-17 voluntary.
 2-18 (h) The committee's presiding officer shall issue a report
 2-19 not later than December 1, 2015, on the implementation of the
 2-20 recommendations and compliance with state truancy laws by a school
 2-21 district located in the county.
 2-22 (i) This section expires January 1, 2016.
 2-23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 2-24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 2-25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 2-26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 2-27 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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