

AN ACT

relating to certain high school students serving as early voting clerks in an election.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (b-1) and (e) and amending Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(b-1) A school district may adopt a policy excusing a student from attending school for service as a student early voting clerk in an election.

(d) A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b), (b-1), (b-2), or (c) may not be penalized for that absence and shall be counted as if the student attended school for purposes of calculating the average daily attendance of students in the school district. A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b), (b-1), ~~(b-2)~~, or (c) shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed on those days. If the student satisfactorily completes the school work, the day of absence shall be counted as a day of compulsory attendance.

(e) A school district may excuse a student for the purposes provided by Subsections (b)(1)(E) and (b-1) for a maximum of two days in a school year.

SECTION 2. Section 33.092, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 Sec. 33.092. STUDENT ELECTION CLERKS AND EARLY VOTING
2 CLERKS. A student who is appointed as a student election clerk
3 under Section 32.0511, Election Code, or as a student early voting
4 clerk under Section 83.012, Election Code, may apply the time
5 served as a student election clerk or student early voting clerk
6 toward:

7 (1) a requirement for a school project at the
8 discretion of the teacher who assigned the project; or

9 (2) a service requirement for participation in an
10 advanced academic course program at the discretion of the program
11 sponsor or a school-sponsored extracurricular activity at the
12 discretion of the school sponsor.

13 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 83, Election Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 83.012 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 83.012. STUDENT EARLY VOTING CLERKS. (a) The early
16 voting clerk may appoint student early voting clerks as necessary
17 to assist the early voting clerk.

18 (b) A person is eligible to serve as a student early voting
19 clerk under this section if the person is ineligible to serve as a
20 clerk of an election precinct under Section 32.051(c) but meets the
21 eligibility requirements to be a student election clerk under
22 Section 32.0511.

23 (c) A student early voting clerk serving under this section:

24 (1) is entitled to compensation under Section 83.052
25 in the same manner as other early voting clerks; and

26 (2) when communicating with a voter who cannot
27 communicate in English, may communicate with the voter in a

1 language the voter and the clerk understand as authorized by
2 Subchapter B, Chapter 61.

3 (d) Not more than four student early voting clerks may serve
4 at an early voting polling place.

5 (e) The secretary of state may initiate or assist in the
6 development of a statewide program promoting the use of student
7 early voting clerks appointed under this section.

8 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 553 passed the Senate on March 27, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 553 passed the House on May 20, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor