

By: Uresti

S.B. No. 553

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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 Subsection (b-1) 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.

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

Sec. 33.092. STUDENT ELECTION CLERKS AND EARLY VOTING CLERKS. A student who is appointed as a student election clerk under Section 32.0511, Election Code, or as a student early voting

1 clerk under Section 83.012, Election Code, may apply the time
2 served as a student election clerk or student early voting clerk
3 toward:

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

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

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

12 Sec. 83.012. STUDENT EARLY VOTING CLERKS. (a) The early
13 voting clerk may appoint student early voting clerks as necessary
14 to assist the early voting clerk.

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

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

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

23 (2) when communicating with a voter who cannot
24 communicate in English, may communicate with the voter in a
25 language the voter and the clerk understand as authorized by
26 Subchapter B, Chapter 61.

27 (d) Not more than four student early voting clerks may serve

1 at an early voting polling place.

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

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