

By: Longoria

H.B. No. 344

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transportation of public school students.

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

SECTION 1. Section 34.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) A school district may not require an operator of a vehicle used to transport students to exceed the qualifications or training required under the Transportation Code or other law.

SECTION 2. Section 34.003(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) School buses or mass transit authority motor buses shall be used for the transportation of students to and from schools on routes having 10 or more students. On those routes having fewer than 10 students, passenger cars or passenger vans may be used for the transportation of students to and from school.

SECTION 3. Section 521.022(h), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(h) This section does not apply to the operation of:

(1) a vehicle owned by a public institution of higher education to transport students of a school district that operates within that institution if:

(A) [~~(1)~~] the person operating the vehicle is approved by the institution to operate the vehicle; and

(B) [~~(2)~~] the transportation is for a special

1 event, including a field trip; or

2 (2) a multifunction school activity bus, as defined by  
3 Section 541.201, owned by a school district to transport students  
4 of the district if:

5 (A) the bus is designed to accommodate 15 or  
6 fewer passengers, including the operator;

7 (B) the person operating the bus is approved by  
8 the district to operate the bus; and

9 (C) the transportation is for a school-related  
10 activity trip other than routes to and from school.

11 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.