

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1405

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to idling the diesel engine of a school bus or commercial
3 charter bus while the bus is parked at a public school, school
4 event, or field trip destination.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 34, Education Code, is amended by adding
7 Section 34.0041 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 34.0041. IDLING BUS DIESEL ENGINE AT SCHOOL OR SCHOOL
9 EVENT PROHIBITED. (a) In this section, "idling" means allowing an
10 engine to run while the motor vehicle is not engaged in forward or
11 reverse motion.

12 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c):

13 (1) the driver of a school bus equipped with a diesel
14 engine may not allow the idling of the bus engine while the bus is
15 parked at a school, school event, or field trip destination; and

16 (2) the driver of a commercial charter bus equipped
17 with a diesel engine that is used to transport school students on a
18 field trip may not allow the idling of the bus engine while the bus
19 is parked at the school or the field trip destination.

20 (c) Subsection (b) does not prohibit the idling of a school
21 bus or commercial charter bus diesel engine:

22 (1) for the time necessary to heat or cool the bus
23 before departure, provided that the engine is turned off when a
24 student is embarking or disembarking; or

1 (2) as necessary to accommodate the physical needs of
2 a student who receives special education services, regardless of
3 whether students are embarking or disembarking.

4 SECTION 2. Section 34.0041, Education Code, as added by
5 this Act, applies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.