

By: Neave

H.B. No. 2972

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the exemption of the absence from school of a student
3 with a chronic or debilitating illness or condition from the
4 calculation of student attendance for purposes of school
5 accountability.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 39, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 39.0532 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 39.0532. CALCULATION OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE IN
10 EVALUATING SCHOOL PERFORMANCE. (a) The commissioner by rule shall
11 develop and adopt a process for a school district to apply to the
12 agency for an exemption from having an absence of a student with a
13 chronic or debilitating illness or condition that is attributable
14 to the student's illness or condition be included in the
15 calculation of student attendance for purposes of the achievement
16 indicator under Section 39.053(c)(4)(B)(i).

17 (b) To apply for the exemption a school district must obtain
18 documentation from a physician indicating that:

19 (1) the student is a patient of the physician;

20 (2) the student has a chronic or debilitating illness
21 or condition; and

22 (3) the absence for which the exemption is sought is
23 attributable to the student's illness or condition.

24 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018

1 school year.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.