

AN ACT

relating to providing an opportunity for public high school students in grades 10 through 12 to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test or an alternative vocational aptitude test.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.9015 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.9015. ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY TEST. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (d) or (e), each school year each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall provide students in grades 10 through 12 an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter.

(b) The test under Subsection (a) must be scheduled:

(1) during normal school hours; and

(2) to optimize student participation, at a time that limits conflicts with extracurricular activities.

(c) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall provide each student in grades 10 through 12 and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student a notice of the date, time, and location of the scheduled administration of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test.

1 (d) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may
2 elect not to provide the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
3 test only if the district or school provides an alternative test
4 that:

5 (1) assesses a student's aptitude for success in a
6 career field other than a career field that requires postsecondary
7 education;

8 (2) is free to administer;

9 (3) requires minimal training and support of district
10 or school faculty and staff to administer the test; and

11 (4) provides the student with a professional
12 interpretation of the test results that allows the student to:

13 (A) explore occupations that are consistent with
14 the student's interests and skills; and

15 (B) develop strategies to attain the student's
16 career goals.

17 (e) This subsection applies only to a school district,
18 open-enrollment charter school, or high school that, before
19 September 1, 2017, entered into a contract under which a vocational
20 aptitude test that does not comply with the requirements for an
21 alternative test under Subsection (d) is provided to students in
22 grades 10 through 12. A school district, open-enrollment charter
23 school, or high school subject to this subsection may elect not to
24 provide the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test for the
25 term of the contract. On the expiration of the contract term, the
26 exemption provided by this subsection is not applicable.

27 (f) Not later than August 1 of each year, the agency shall

1 publish a list of school districts and open-enrollment charter
2 schools that elected under Subsection (d) or (e) not to provide the
3 Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test during the previous
4 school year.

5 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
6 school year.

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

S.B. No. 1843

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1843 passed the Senate on May 4, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1843 passed the House on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor