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By:  Seliger S.B. No. 1398

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a behavior improvement plan imposed as a public school truancy prevention measure.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 25.0915(a-1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1)  As a truancy prevention measure under Subsection (a), a school district shall take one or more of the following actions:

(1)  impose:

(A)  a behavior improvement plan on the student that must be signed by an employee of the district [~~school~~], that the school district has made a good faith effort to have signed by the student or [~~and~~] the student's parent or guardian, and that includes:

(i)  a specific description of the behavior that is required or prohibited for the student;

(ii)  the period for which the plan will be effective, not to exceed 90 [~~45~~] school days after the date the contract becomes effective; or

(iii)  the penalties for additional absences, including additional disciplinary action or the referral of the student to a truancy court; or

(B)  school-based community service; or

(2)  refer the student to counseling, mediation, mentoring, a teen court program, community-based services, or other in-school or out-of-school services aimed at addressing the student's truancy.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.