

By: Seliger  
(VanDeaver)

S.B. No. 289

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to excused absences from public school for certain students to obtain a driver's license or learner license.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-7) and amending Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(b-7) A school district may excuse a student who is 15 years of age or older from attending school to visit a driver's license office to obtain a driver's license or learner license, provided that:

(1) the district may not excuse more than one day of school during the period the student is enrolled in high school for each of the following purposes:

(A) obtaining a driver's license; or

(B) obtaining a learner license; and

(2) the district verifies the student's visit to the driver's license office in accordance with procedures adopted by the district.

(d) A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b), (b-1), (b-2), (b-4), (b-5), (b-7), or (c) may not be penalized for that absence and shall be counted as if the student attended school for purposes of calculating the average daily attendance of students in the school district. A student whose absence is excused

1 under Subsection (b), (b-1), (b-2), (b-4), (b-5), (b-7), or (c)  
2 shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed on  
3 those days. If the student satisfactorily completes the school  
4 work, the day of absence shall be counted as a day of compulsory  
5 attendance.

6 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
7 school year.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.