

By: Murr

H.B. No. 131

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to excused absences from public school for certain students to visit a professional's workplace for a career investigation day.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-8) and amending Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(b-8) A school district may excuse a student from attending school for a career investigation day to visit a professional at the professional's workplace during the student's junior and senior years of high school for the purpose of determining the student's interest in pursuing a career in the professional's field, provided that:

(1) the district may not excuse for this purpose more than two days during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year; and

(2) the district adopts:

(A) a policy to determine when an absence may be excused for this purpose; and

(B) a procedure to verify the student's visit at the professional's workplace.

(d) A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b), (b-1), (b-2), (b-4), (b-5), (b-7), (b-8), or (c) may not be

1 penalized for that absence and shall be counted as if the student
2 attended school for purposes of calculating the average daily
3 attendance of students in the school district. A student whose
4 absence is excused under Subsection (b), (b-1), (b-2), (b-4),
5 (b-5), (b-7), (b-8), or (c) shall be allowed a reasonable time to
6 make up school work missed on those days. If the student
7 satisfactorily completes the school work, the day of absence shall
8 be counted as a day of compulsory attendance.

9 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024
10 school year.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.