Chapter 1347

S.B. No. 300

1 AN ACT
2 relating to eliminating or modifying certain mandates on school
3 districts.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
5 SECTION 1. Subsection (d), Section 11.1513, Education Code,
6 is amended to read as follows:
7 (d) The employment policy must provide that not later than
8 the 10th school day before the date on which a district fills a
9 vacant position for which a certificate or license is required as
10 provided by Section 21.003, other than a position that affects the
11 safety and security of students as determined by the board of
12 trustees, the district must provide to each current district
13 employee:
14 (1) notice of the position by posting the position on:
15 (A) a bulletin board at:
16 (i) a place convenient to the public in the
17 district's central administrative office; and
18 (ii) the central administrative office of
19 each campus in the district during any time the office is open; or
20 [and]
21 (B) the district's Internet website, if the
22 district has a website; and
23 (2) a reasonable opportunity to apply for the
24 position.
S.B. No. 300

SECTION 2. Section 25.112, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

(d) On application of a school district, the commissioner may except the district from the limit in Subsection (a) if the commissioner finds the limit works an undue hardship on the district. An exception expires at the end of the school year [semester] for which it is granted[; and the commissioner may not grant an exception for

(1) more than one semester at a time].

(e) A school district seeking an exception under Subsection (d) shall notify the commissioner and apply for the exception not later than the later of:

(1) October 1; or

(2) the 30th day after the first school day the district exceeds the limit in Subsection (a).

(f) If a school district repeatedly fails to comply with this section, the commissioner may take any appropriate action authorized to be taken by the commissioner under Section 39.131.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2011, the agency shall report to the legislature the number of applications for exceptions under Subsection (d) submitted by each school district and for each application indicate whether the application was granted or denied.

This subsection expires February 1, 2011.

SECTION 3. Section 34.0021, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

2
S.B. No. 300

(a) Pursuant to the safety standards established by the Department of Public Safety under Section 34.002, each school district may [shall] conduct a training session for students and teachers concerning procedures for evacuating a school bus during an emergency.

(b) A school district that chooses to conduct a training session under Subsection (a) is encouraged to [shall] conduct the school bus emergency evacuation training session [at least twice each school year, with one training session occurring] in the fall of the school year [and one training session occurring in the spring]. The school district is also encouraged to structure the training session so that the session applies to school bus passengers, a [w] portion of the [training] session occurs [must occur] on a school bus, and the [training] session lasts [must last] for at least one hour.

(c-1) Immediately before each field trip involving transportation by school bus, a school district is encouraged to review school bus emergency evacuation procedures with the school bus passengers, including a demonstration of the school bus emergency exits and the safe manner to exit.

SECTION 4. Section 44.902, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 44.902. LONG-RANGE ENERGY PLAN [GOAL] TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY. (a) The board of trustees of a school district shall establish a long-range energy plan [goal] to reduce the [school] district's annual electric consumption by five percent beginning with the 2008 [each] state fiscal year and
consume electricity in subsequent fiscal years in accordance with the district's energy plan [for six years beginning September 1, 2007].

(b) The plan required under Subsection (a) must include:

(1) strategies for achieving energy efficiency that:

(A) result in net savings for the district; or

(B) can be achieved without financial cost to the district; and

(2) for each strategy identified under Subdivision (1), the initial, short-term capital costs and lifetime costs and savings that may result from implementation of the strategy.

(c) In determining under Subsection (b) whether a strategy may result in financial cost to the district, the board of trustees shall consider the total net costs and savings that may occur over the seven-year period following implementation of the strategy.

(d) The board of trustees may submit the plan required under Subsection (a) to the State Energy Conservation Office for the purposes of determining whether funds available through loan programs administered by the office are available to the district.

SECTION 5. Subsection (b), Section 44.901, Education Code, is repealed.

SECTION 6. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.

SECTION 7. 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, 2009.

David Dewhurst  
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 300 passed the Senate on March 25, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 30, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Joe Straus  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 300 passed the House, with amendment, on May 27, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Robert Haney  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:  
19 Jan '09

Date

Rick Perry  
Governor

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State  6 PM O'clock  
Jun 19 2009

Colby Hunter  