

**SUBJECT:** Public school allotment for children of active military

**COMMITTEE:** Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Corte, Escobar, Noriega, Garcia, Herrero, Hodge, Merritt, Raymond  
0 nays  
1 absent — Moreno

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 17 — 29-2 (Nichols, Patrick)

**WITNESSES:** (*On House companion bill, HB 3264 by Chavez:*)  
For — Paul Colbert, El Paso Independent School District (Registered, but did not testify: Sylvia Borunda Firth, City of El Paso; Deborah Kastrin, El Paso Commissioners Court, County Judge Anthony Cobos; Mark Smith, Hunt Building Company  
  
Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Education Code, subch. C, provides additional state funding for students with certain characteristics. Student weights increase district funding for students who require extra resources, such as students with disabilities or those enrolled in bilingual education or gifted and talented programs. Another way funding is distributed is through special allotments based on the number of students in average daily attendance (ADA).

**DIGEST:** SB 961 would create a new allotment of \$650 for each student in ADA who has a parent or guardian who is serving on active duty in a combat zone in the armed forces and has transferred to a campus in the district during the school year because of a move resulting from the closing of a defense base. The funds only could be used to meet the cost of providing a compensatory, intensive, or accelerated programs for such purposes as for dropout prevention or addressing disparities in TAKS test scores. The total amount appropriated for this allotment could not exceed \$9.9 million in a school year. If districts are entitled to allotments that exceed

this amount, each district's allotment would have to be reduced accordingly.

This allotment would expire September 1, 2012. The bill would take effect September 1, 2007.

NOTES:

The LBB estimates that the bill would cost \$19.8 million in fiscal 2008-09.

The House companion bill, HB 3246 by Chavez, was heard and left pending by the Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations Committee on April 19.