

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 263
By: Ogden
Education
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, many institutions of higher education lack policies or procedures regarding student travel. As proposed, S.B. 263 requires governing boards of all institutions of higher education, including community colleges, to adopt written policies regulating student travel that is organized or sponsored by the institution or undertaken by more than one student passenger to reach an activity more than five miles from campus.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 51Z, Education Code, by adding Section 51.949, as follows:

Sec. 51.949. POLICY REGULATING STUDENT TRAVEL. Defines “governing board” and “institution of higher education.” Requires each governing board of an institution of higher education to adopt a written policy regulating student travel that is organized or sponsored by the institution; or undertaken by more than one student passenger to reach an activity located more than five miles from the campus of the institution and organized or sponsored by the institution. Requires the governing board to seek advice and comment from the faculty and students of the institution before adopting any policy under this section. Requires the policy to contain provisions that address different modes of travel likely to be used by students; and certain safety issues related to student travel. Requires the governing board to make the policy available to the public by publishing the policy in the institution’s catalog and by any other method the board considers appropriate. Requires the governing board to file a copy of the policy adopted under this section, and any amendments to that policy, with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

SECTION. 2. Makes application of this Act prospective to student travel beginning August 1, 2002. Requires each governing board of an institution of higher education to adopt the student travel policy required by Section 51.949, Education Code, as added by this Act, and not later than January 1, 2002, to file a copy of the policy with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, not later than August 1, 2002.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.