

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R11796 CAS-F

C.S.S.B. 704
By: West, Royce
Education
4/6/2001
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, state law draws a narrow distinction between a school uniform requirement and a standardized dress code. If a school district adopts a school uniform, the school board must designate a source of funding to be used in providing uniforms for students who are educationally disadvantaged. However, if a school district adopts a standardized dress code, it is not required to provide clothing to educationally disadvantaged students. C.S.S.B. 704 authorizes a school district to discipline an educationally disadvantaged student for violation of the district's standardized dress code if the district has designated a means by which the student may obtain clothing, without charge, that complies with the dress code.

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 11D, Education Code, by adding Section 11.1621, as follows:

Sec. 11.1621. STANDARDIZED SCHOOL DISTRICT DRESS CODES. (a) Authorizes the board of trustees of an independent school district to adopt a standardized student dress code to improve the learning environment or to maintain order in the district.

(b) Provides that this subsection only applies to a student who is educationally disadvantaged and whose parent demonstrates to the satisfaction of the district that the parent is financially unable to purchase clothing that complies with the standardized district dress code. Authorizes a district to discipline a student for violating the standardized dress code only if the district ensures that the student or the student's parent can obtain clothing that complies with the standardized dress code without cost to the student or the student's parent. Authorizes the district, for that purpose, to take certain actions.

(c) Provides that a decision by a board of trustees under this section concerning the reasonableness of restrictions on student dress or a parent's financial inability to purchase clothing that complies with the standardized district dress code is final and prohibits the decision from being appealed under Section 7.057.

(d) Defines "parent" and "standardized dress code."

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 1. Amends As Filed S.B. 704 as follows:

Sec. 11.1621. STANDARDIZED SCHOOL DISTRICT DRESS CODES. Authorizes the

board of trustees of an independent school district to adopt a standardized student dress code for certain purposes. Authorizes a district to discipline a student for violating the standardized dress code only if the district ensures that the student or the student's parent can obtain, without cost to the student or the student's parent, clothing that complies with the standardized dress code. Authorizes the district, for that purpose, to take certain actions. Defines "standardized dress code." Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. No change.