

HB 1653 -- CHILD SUPPORT

SPONSOR: Walton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently, a child enrolled in an institution of vocational or higher education must submit at the beginning of each semester a school transcript or similar official document to each parent in order to remain eligible for continued parental support. This bill instead requires a parent to request this information from the child in writing and notify the child that failure to provide requested transcripts or similar official documents within 30 days and at the beginning of each semester thereafter, will relieve the parent of his or her obligation of support during the semester.

No judgment for abatement of support will be entered if the child has enrolled and completed at least 24 hours of credit over an academic school year, including the summer semester. If an order for abatement has already been entered, the judgment will be set aside once the child has completed 24 hours of credit.

A parent's obligation to support a child may be suspended when a child is called up for active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States for a period in excess of 30 consecutive days. Eligibility for support will be restored once the child is discharged from active duty and re-enrolls the next semester, not including the summer semester, in an institution.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say the bill is necessary to improve the reporting requirements for children receiving support from a non-custodial parent while attending an institution of vocational or higher education.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Walton.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst