

AN ACT

relating to verification of excused absences from public school for the purpose of observing religious holy days.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) For purposes of excusing a student from attending school to observe a religious holy day under Subsection (b)(1)(A), a school district:

(1) may not require documentation from a clergy member or other religious leader; and

(2) shall accept a note from the student's parent or person standing in parental relation verifying the purpose of the student's absence.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

SECTION 3. 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, 2023.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1212 was passed by the House on April 20, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1212 was passed by the Senate on May 15, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor