

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 1552

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the absence of a student from school for activities in  
3 connection with obtaining United States citizenship.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as  
7 follows:

8 (b) A school district shall excuse a student from attending  
9 school for:

10 (1) the purpose of observing religious holy days,  
11 including traveling for that purpose;

12 (2) a ~~school district shall excuse a student for~~  
13 temporary absence resulting from an appointment with a health care  
14 professional ~~professionals~~ if the ~~that~~ student commences  
15 classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment; or

16 (3) the purpose of appearing at a governmental office  
17 to complete paperwork required in connection with the student's  
18 application for United States citizenship or to take part in a  
19 naturalization oath ceremony, including traveling for that  
20 purpose.

21 (c) A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b)  
22 ~~this subsection~~ may not be penalized for that absence and shall be  
23 counted as if the student attended school for purposes of  
24 calculating the average daily attendance of students in the school

1 district. A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b)  
2 [~~this subsection~~] shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up  
3 school work missed on those days. If the student satisfactorily  
4 completes the school work, the day of absence shall be counted as a  
5 day of compulsory attendance.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.