

By: Strama

H.B. No. 1560

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the absence of a student from public school for certain
3 activities.

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 following purposes, including travel for those
11 purposes:

12 (A) [purpose of] observing religious holy days;

13 (B) appearing at a governmental office to
14 complete paperwork required in connection with the student's
15 application for United States citizenship or to take part in a
16 naturalization oath ceremony;

17 (C) attending an appointment with the student's
18 probation officer;

19 (D) attending an adoption proceeding involving
20 the student; or

21 (E) attending a required court appearance; or

22 (2) a [~~including traveling for that purpose. A~~
23 ~~school district shall excuse a student for~~] temporary absence
24 resulting from health care professionals if that student commences

1 classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment.

2 (c) A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b)
3 ~~[this subsection]~~ may not be penalized for that absence and shall be
4 counted as if the student attended school for purposes of
5 calculating the average daily attendance of students in the school
6 district. A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b)
7 ~~[this subsection]~~ shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up
8 school work missed on those days. If the student satisfactorily
9 completes the school work, the day of absence shall be counted as a
10 day of compulsory attendance.

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