

By: Strama

H.B. No. 113

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 Subsections (c) and (d) to read  
7 as 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;

21 (E) attending a required court appearance; or

22 (F) visiting with the student's parent if the  
23 parent has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or is  
24 returning from overseas deployment as a member of the armed forces

1 of the United States, a reserve component of the armed forces of the  
2 United States, or the state military forces; or

3 (2) a [~~, including traveling for that purpose. A~~  
4 ~~school district shall excuse a student for~~] temporary absence  
5 resulting from health care professionals if that student commences  
6 classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment.

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

16 (d) A student may receive an excused absence for a reason  
17 provided under Subsection (b)(1)(F) not more than five days each  
18 school year.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.