

By: Alonzo, Anchia, Flores, Rodriguez,
Hernandez

H.B. No. 192

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the absence of a student from school for activities in
3 connection with obtaining United States citizenship or to visit
4 with a parent or guardian who will be or has been deployed to a
5 combat zone.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by
8 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (e) to
9 read as follows:

10 (b) A school district shall excuse a student from attending
11 school for:

12 (1) the following purposes, including travel for those
13 purposes:

14 (A) observing religious holy days; [~~or~~]

15 (B) attending a required court appearance;

16 (C) appearing at a governmental office to
17 complete paperwork required in connection with the student's
18 application for United States citizenship;

19 (D) taking part in a United States naturalization
20 oath ceremony; or

21 (E) spending time with the student's parent or
22 guardian, if the parent or guardian has been called to duty for, is
23 on leave from, or is returning from deployment to a combat zone as a
24 member of the armed forces of the United States, a reserve component

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

3 (2) a temporary absence resulting from health care
4 professionals if that student commences classes or returns to
5 school on the same day of the appointment.

6 (b-1) The board of trustees of each independent school
7 district shall establish criteria for determining the number of
8 days a student may receive an excused absence for the purpose
9 described by Subsection (b)(1)(E).

10 (e) In this section, "combat zone" means an area that the
11 president of the United States by executive order designates for
12 purposes of 26 U.S.C. Section 112 as an area in which armed forces
13 of the United States are or have engaged in combat.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.