

AN ACT

relating to the purposes for which a student's absence from school must be excused.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-3) to read as follows:

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

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

(A) observing religious holy days; ~~or~~

(B) attending a required court appearance;

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

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

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

(b-3) A temporary absence for purposes of Subsection (b)(2) includes the temporary absence of a student diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder on the day of the student's appointment with a

1 health care practitioner, as described by Section 1355.015(b),
2 Insurance Code, to receive a generally recognized service for
3 persons with autism spectrum disorder, including applied
4 behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 192 was passed by the House on May 7, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 3, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 192 on May 29, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 192 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 25, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor