

By: Van de Putte, Davis
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S.B. No. 1075

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the absence of a student from public school to visit with a parent or guardian who has been or will be deployed to a combat zone.

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 Subsections (b-1) and (e) 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; or

(C) spending time with the student's parent or guardian, if the parent or guardian has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or is returning from deployment to a combat zone as a member of the armed forces of the United States, a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, or the state military forces; 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-1) The board of trustees of each independent school

1 district shall establish criteria for determining the number of
2 days a student may receive an excused absence for the purpose
3 described by Subsection (b)(1)(C).

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

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