

1-1 By: Van de Putte S.B. No. 1075
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 23, 2009; March 13, 2009,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; March 30, 2009, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays
1-6 0; March 30, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1075 By: Shapleigh

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the absence of a student from public school to visit
1-11 with a parent or guardian who has been or will be deployed to a
1-12 combat zone.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by
1-15 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (e) to
1-16 read as follows:

1-17 (b) A school district shall excuse a student from attending
1-18 school for:

1-19 (1) the following purposes, including travel for those
1-20 purposes:

1-21 (A) observing religious holy days; [~~or~~]

1-22 (B) attending a required court appearance; or

1-23 (C) spending time with the student's parent or
1-24 guardian, if the parent or guardian has been called to duty for, is
1-25 on leave from, or is returning from deployment to a combat zone as a
1-26 member of the armed forces of the United States, a reserve component
1-27 of the armed forces of the United States, or the state military
1-28 forces; or

1-29 (2) a temporary absence resulting from health care
1-30 professionals if that student commences classes or returns to
1-31 school on the same day of the appointment.

1-32 (b-1) The board of trustees of each independent school
1-33 district shall establish criteria for determining the number of
1-34 days a student may receive an excused absence for the purpose
1-35 described by Subsection (b)(1)(C).

1-36 (e) In this section, "combat zone" means an area that the
1-37 president of the United States by executive order designates for
1-38 purposes of 26 U.S.C. Section 112 as an area in which armed forces
1-39 of the United States are or have engaged in combat.

1-40 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-41 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-42 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-43 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-44 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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