

By: Bohac, Raymond, Orr, Eiland, Villarreal,  
et al.

H.B. No. 308

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a school district's recognition of and education  
regarding traditional winter celebrations.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is  
amended by adding Section 29.920 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.920. WINTER CELEBRATIONS. (a) A school district  
may educate students about the history of traditional winter  
celebrations, and allow students and district staff to offer  
traditional greetings regarding the celebrations, including:

(1) "Merry Christmas";

(2) "Happy Hanukkah"; and

(3) "happy holidays."

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a school district  
may display on school property scenes or symbols associated with  
traditional winter celebrations, including a menorah or a Christmas  
image such as a nativity scene or Christmas tree, if the display  
includes a scene or symbol of:

(1) more than one religion; or

(2) one religion and at least one secular scene or  
symbol.

(c) A display relating to a traditional winter celebration  
may not include a message that encourages adherence to a particular  
religious belief.

1           SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014  
2 school year.

3           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.