

By: Klick

H.B. No. 1865

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to authorizing school districts to suspend classes on  
3 primary and general election days and requiring the commissioner of  
4 education to adjust funding for certain related absences.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 25.0812 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 25.0812. SUSPENSION OF CLASSES ON PRIMARY AND GENERAL  
9 ELECTION DAY. (a) This section applies to elections held on the  
10 primary election date described by Section 41.007, Election Code,  
11 or the date for the general election for state and county officers  
12 under Section 41.001, Election Code.

13 (b) A school district may suspend classes on the day of a  
14 primary or general election. A district that intends to suspend  
15 classes as provided by this section must notify the commissioner  
16 not later than the first day of instruction for the school year in  
17 which the election will be held.

18 (c) The authorization granted by this section does not  
19 exempt a school district from the requirement under Section  
20 25.081(a) for a minimum number of days of instruction. A district  
21 may extend its school calendar to compensate for days on which  
22 classes are suspended as provided by this section.

23 SECTION 2. Section 42.005, Education Code, is amended by  
24 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

1        (c-1) The commissioner shall adjust the average daily  
2 attendance of a school district that suspends classes on the day of  
3 the primary or general election as provided by Section 25.0812 and  
4 that, on the day preceding election day, has more than the  
5 district's average number of daily absences, so that the district  
6 is not penalized under this section for that increase in the number  
7 of absences.

8        SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014  
9 school year.

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