

By: Nichols, Patrick

S.B. No. 665

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a school district's recognition of and education
3 regarding traditional winter celebrations.

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

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

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

11 (1) "Merry Christmas";

12 (2) "Happy Hanukkah"; and

13 (3) "happy holidays."

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

19 (1) more than one religion; or

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

22 (c) A display relating to a traditional winter celebration
23 may not include a message that encourages adherence to a particular
24 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.