

Chapter 595

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the purposes for which a student's absence from school
3 must be excused.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-3) to read as
7 follows:

8 (b) A school district shall excuse a student from attending
9 school for:

10 (1) the following purposes, including travel for those
11 purposes:

- 12 (A) observing religious holy days; ~~[or]~~
- 13 (B) attending a required court appearance;
- 14 (C) appearing at a governmental office to
15 complete paperwork required in connection with the student's
16 application for United States citizenship; or
- 17 (D) taking part in a United States naturalization
18 oath ceremony; or

19 (2) a temporary absence resulting from health care
20 professionals if that student commences classes or returns to
21 school on the same day of the appointment.

22 (b-3) A temporary absence for purposes of Subsection (b)(2)
23 includes the temporary absence of a student diagnosed with autism
24 spectrum disorder on the day of the student's appointment with a

1 health care practitioner, as described by Section 1355.015(b),
2 Insurance Code, to receive a generally recognized service for
3 persons with autism spectrum disorder, including applied
4 behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

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

David Newkum

President of the Senate

Jim Strawn

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 192 was passed by the House on May 7, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 3, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 192 on May 29, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Robert Honey

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 192 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 25, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Datsy Gaur

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 19 54 N '09

Date

Rick Perry

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
7 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 1 2009

Colby Hunter III