

CHAPTER 862

S.B. No. 1443

An Act relating to prohibiting denial of certain salary bonuses or similar compensation or career ladder advancement because of a teacher's absence from school for observance of a religious holy day; adding Section 13.909 to Subchapter Z, Chapter 13, Education Code, as amended.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 13, Education Code, as amended, is amended by adding Section 13.909 to read as follows:

“Section 13.909. PROHIBITED PENALTIES BASED ON ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE. (a) A school district may not deny a teacher a salary bonus or similar compensation given in whole or in part on the basis of teacher attendance or a career ladder advancement because of the teacher's absence from school for observance of a religious holy day.

“(b) In this section, ‘religious holy day’ means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Property Tax Code.

“(c) With the advice and assistance of the state commissioner of education, the State Board of Education may adopt rules consistent with this subsection that are necessary to administer this subsection uniformly.”

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on May 15, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 25, 1985, by a non-record vote.

Approved: June 15, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985