

CHAPTER 236

H.B. No. 308

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.

David Newkumst
President of the Senate

Joe Straus
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 308 was passed by the House on May 8, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

Robert Nancy
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 308 was passed by the Senate on May 17, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Patsy Spaw
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 14 JUNE '13

Date

RICK PERRY
Governor

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

JUN 14 2013

[Signature]
Secretary of State