

1-1 By: Rosenthal (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 699
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 8, 2021;
 1-3 April 12, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Education; May 11, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable
 1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0;
 1-6 May 11, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

| | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-8 Taylor | X | | | |
| 1-9 Lucio | X | | | |
| 1-10 Bettencourt | X | | | |
| 1-11 Hall | X | | | |
| 1-12 Hughes | X | | | |
| 1-13 Menéndez | X | | | |
| 1-14 Paxton | X | | | |
| 1-15 Perry | X | | | |
| 1-16 Powell | X | | | |
| 1-17 Schwertner | X | | | |
| 1-18 West | X | | | |

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 699 By: Taylor

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to public school attendance requirements for students
 1-24 diagnosed with or undergoing related treatment for severe or
 1-25 life-threatening illnesses.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Riley's Rule.

1-28 SECTION 2. Section 25.087(b), Education Code, is amended to
 1-29 read as follows:

1-30 (b) A school district shall excuse a student from attending
 1-31 school for:

1-32 (1) the following purposes, including travel for those
 1-33 purposes:

1-34 (A) observing religious holy days;

1-35 (B) attending a required court appearance;

1-36 (C) appearing at a governmental office to
 1-37 complete paperwork required in connection with the student's
 1-38 application for United States citizenship;

1-39 (D) taking part in a United States naturalization
 1-40 oath ceremony;

1-41 (E) serving as an election clerk; or

1-42 (F) if the student is in the conservatorship of
 1-43 the Department of Family and Protective Services, participating, as
 1-44 determined and documented by the department, in an activity:

1-45 (i) ordered by a court under Chapter 262 or
 1-46 263, Family Code, provided that it is not practicable to schedule
 1-47 the participation outside of school hours; or

1-48 (ii) required under a service plan under
 1-49 Subchapter B, Chapter 263, Family Code; ~~or~~

1-50 (2) a temporary absence resulting from an appointment
 1-51 with health care professionals for the student or the student's
 1-52 child if the student commences classes or returns to school on the
 1-53 same day of the appointment; or

1-54 (3) an absence resulting from a serious or
 1-55 life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes the
 1-56 student's attendance infeasible, if the student or the student's
 1-57 parent or guardian provides a certification from a physician
 1-58 licensed to practice medicine in this state specifying the
 1-59 student's illness and the anticipated period of the student's
 1-60 absence relating to the illness or related treatment.

2-1 SECTION 3. Section 25.0915(a-3), Education Code, is amended
2-2 to read as follows:

2-3 (a-3) A school district shall offer additional counseling
2-4 to a student and may not refer the student to truancy court under
2-5 this section, Section 25.0951, or any other provision if the school
2-6 determines that the student's truancy is the result of:

2-7 (1) pregnancy;

2-8 (2) being in the state foster program;

2-9 (3) homelessness; ~~or~~

2-10 (4) severe or life-threatening illness or related
2-11 treatment; or

2-12 (5) being the principal income earner for the
2-13 student's family.

2-14 SECTION 4. Section 25.092, Education Code, is amended by
2-15 adding Subsection (a-3) to read as follows:

2-16 (a-3) A student's excused absence under Section
2-17 25.087(b)(3) may not be considered in determining whether the
2-18 student has satisfied the attendance requirement under Subsection
2-19 (a) or (a-1).

2-20 SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
2-21 school year.

2-22 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-26 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

2-27 * * * * *