SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on May 2, 2013: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 20, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 922

H.B. No. 1458

AN ACT
relating to the designation of U.S. Highway 175 in Kaufman County as the Veterans Memorial Highway.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 225, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 225.095 to read as follows:

Sec. 225.095. VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY IN KAUFMAN COUNTY. (a) The portion of U.S. Highway 175 in Kaufman County is designated as the Veterans Memorial Highway.

(b) Subject to Section 225.021(c), the department shall:

(1) design and construct markers indicating the designation as the Veterans Memorial Highway and any other appropriate information; and

(2) erect a marker at each end of the highway and at appropriate intermediate sites along the highway.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on May 2, 2013: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 20, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 923

H.B. No. 1479

AN ACT
relating to establishing a committee in certain counties to recommend a uniform truancy policy.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 25.0916 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.0916. UNIFORM TRUANCY POLICIES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a county:

(1) with a population greater than 1.5 million; and

(2) that includes at least:

(A) 15 school districts with the majority of district territory in the county; and
(B) one school district with a student enrollment of 50,000 or more and an annual dropout rate spanning grades 9–12 of at least five percent, computed in accordance with standards and definitions adopted by the National Center for Education Statistics of the United States Department of Education.

(b) A committee shall be established to recommend a uniform truancy policy for each school district located in the county.

(c) Not later than September 1, 2013, the county judge and the mayor of the municipality in the county with the greatest population shall each appoint one member to serve on the committee as a representative of each of the following:

(1) a juvenile district court;
(2) a municipal court;
(3) the office of a justice of the peace;
(4) the superintendent or designee of an independent school district;
(5) an open-enrollment charter school;
(6) the office of the district attorney; and
(7) the general public.

(d) Not later than September 1, 2013, the county judge shall appoint to serve on the committee one member from the house of representatives and one member from the senate who are members of the respective standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over public education.

(e) The county judge and mayor of the municipality in the county with the greatest population shall:

(1) both serve on the committee or appoint representatives to serve on their behalf; and
(2) jointly appoint a member of the committee to serve as the presiding officer.

(f) Not later than September 1, 2014, the committee shall recommend:

(1) a uniform process for filing truancy cases with the judicial system;
(2) uniform administrative procedures;
(3) uniform deadlines for processing truancy cases;
(4) effective prevention, intervention, and diversion methods to reduce truancy and referrals to a county, justice, or municipal court;
(5) a system for tracking truancy information and sharing truancy information among school districts and open-enrollment charter schools in the county; and
(6) any changes to statutes or state agency rules the committee determines are necessary to address truancy.

(g) Compliance with the committee recommendations is voluntary.

(h) The committee’s presiding officer shall issue a report not later than December 1, 2015, on the implementation of the recommendations and compliance with state truancy laws by a school district located in the county.

(i) This section expires January 1, 2016.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on April 18, 2013: Yeas 142, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1479 on May 24, 2013: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.