(a) Only the following [a physician, qualified technician, chemist, registered professional nurse, or licensed vocational nurse] may take a blood specimen at the request or order of a peace officer under this chapter:

(1) a physician;
(2) a qualified technician;
(3) a registered professional nurse;
(4) a licensed vocational nurse; or
(5) a licensed or certified emergency medical technician-intermediate or emergency medical technician-paramedic authorized to take a blood specimen under Subsection (c).

(a-1) The blood specimen must be taken in a sanitary place.

(c) A licensed or certified emergency medical technician-intermediate or emergency medical technician-paramedic may take a blood specimen only if authorized by the medical director for the entity that employs the technician-intermediate or technician-paramedic. The specimen must be taken according to a protocol developed by the medical director that provides direction to the technician-intermediate or technician-paramedic for the taking of a blood specimen at the request or order of a peace officer. In this subsection, "medical director" means a licensed physician who supervises the provision of emergency medical services by a public or private entity that:

(1) provides those services; and
(2) employs one or more licensed or certified emergency medical technician-intermediates or emergency medical technician-paramedics [In this section, "qualified technician" does not include emergency medical services personnel].

(c-1) A protocol developed under Subsection (c) may address whether an emergency medical technician-intermediate or emergency medical technician-paramedic engaged in the performance of official duties is entitled to refuse to:

(1) go to the location of a person from whom a peace officer requests or orders the taking of a blood specimen solely for the purpose of taking that blood specimen;
(2) take a blood specimen if the technician-intermediate or technician-paramedic reasonably believes that complying with the peace officer's request or order to take the specimen would impair or interfere with the provision of patient care or the performance of other official duties; or
(3) provide the equipment or supplies necessary to take a blood specimen.

(c-2) If a licensed or certified emergency medical technician-intermediate or emergency medical technician-paramedic takes a blood specimen at the request or order of a peace officer, a peace officer must:

(1) observe the taking of the specimen; and
(2) immediately take possession of the specimen for purposes of establishing a chain of custody.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.
Passed by the House on April 18, 2013: Yeas 141, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 15, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.
Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 248

H.B. No. 442
AN ACT
relating to the recognition of a portion of U.S. Highway 83 as a memorial to Trooper Eduardo Chavez.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 225, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 225.091 to read as follows:
Sec. 225.091. TROOPER EDUARDO CHAVEZ MEMORIAL HIGHWAY. (a) The portion of U.S. Highway 83 in Starr County from the eastern boundary of Starr County to Farm-to-Market Road 2360 or the most appropriate point west of Farm-to-Market Road 2360, as determined by the department, shall serve as a memorial to Trooper Eduardo Chavez.

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

(1) design and construct markers indicating that the portion of U.S. Highway 83 described in Subsection (a) is a memorial to Trooper Eduardo Chavez, 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 April 3, 2013: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 17, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 249

H.B. No. 455

AN ACT
relating to excused absences from public school for certain students.

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

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

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

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

(A) observing religious holy days;

(B) attending a required court appearance;

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

(D) taking part in a United States naturalization oath ceremony; or

(E) serving as an election clerk; or

(2) a temporary absence resulting from an appointment with health care professionals for the student or the student's child if the student commences classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2013–2014 school year.

SECTION 3. 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 12, 2013: Yeas 133, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 17, 2013: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective June 14, 2013.