(b-1) The board of trustees of each school district and the governing board of each open-enrollment charter school shall require that the United States and Texas flags be prominently displayed in accordance with 4 U.S.C. Sections 5–10 and Chapter 3100, Government Code, in each campus classroom to which a student is assigned at the time the pledges of allegiance to those flags are recited. A district or school is not required to spend federal, state, or local district or school funds to acquire flags required under this subsection. A district or school may raise money or accept gifts, grants, and donations to acquire flags required under this subsection.

(c) On written request from a student’s parent or guardian, a school district or open-enrollment charter school shall excuse the student from reciting a pledge of allegiance under Subsection (b).

(d) The board of trustees of each school district and the governing board of each open-enrollment charter school shall provide for the observance of one minute of silence at each campus following the recitation of the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags under Subsection (b). During the one-minute period, each student may, as the student chooses, reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that is not likely to interfere with or distract another student. Each teacher or other school employee in charge of students during that period shall ensure that each of those students remains silent and does not act in a manner that is likely to interfere with or distract another student.

SECTION 2. (a) Sections 25.082(b), (c), and (d), Education Code, as amended by this Act, apply beginning with the 2013–2014 school year.

(b) Section 25.082(b-1), Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2016–2017 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 26, 2013: Yeas 139, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 773 on May 20, 2013, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 773 on May 26, 2013: Yeas 140, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 16, 2013: Yeas 29, Nays 0; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 773 on May 26, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 882

H.B. No. 796

AN ACT

relating to the licensing of a journeyman lineman.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1305.002, Occupations Code, is amended by redesignating existing Subdivision (12) as Subdivision (11-a) and adding a new Subdivision (12) to read as follows:

(11-a) [412) “Executive director” means the executive director of the department.

(12) “Journeyman lineman” means an individual who engages in electrical work involving the maintenance and operation of equipment associated with the transmission
and distribution of electricity from the electricity's original source to a substation for further distribution.

SECTION 2. Section 1305.102(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The executive director shall adopt rules for the licensing of electricians, sign electricians, electrical sign contractors, electrical contractors, journeyman linemen, residential appliance installers, and residential appliance installation contractors as prescribed by this chapter.

SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 1305, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1305.1605 to read as follows:

Sec. 1305.1605. JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN. (a) An applicant for a license as a journeyman lineman must:

(1) have at least:

(A) 7,000 hours of training in an apprenticeship program approved by the United States Department of Labor; or

(B) 3-1/2 years of experience as a journeyman lineman for an electric utility, electric cooperative, municipally owned utility, or electrical contractor in this state; and

(2) pass a journeyman lineman examination administered under this chapter.

(b) A journeyman lineman license is not required for:

(1) a person performing work exempt under Section 1305.003(a)(5); or

(2) a person who:

(A) is performing journeyman lineman work;

(B) possesses a journeyman electrician license; and

(C) is employed by an institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

SECTION 4. Section 1305.168(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To renew a master electrician, journeyman electrician, master sign electrician, journeyman sign electrician, maintenance electrician, maintenance lineman, or residential wireman license, the license holder must complete four hours of continuing education annually.

SECTION 5. (a) Not later than January 1, 2014, the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation shall adopt rules regulating the licensing of a journeyman lineman, as required by Section 1305.102, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act.

(b) A person is not required to hold a license as a journeyman lineman under Chapter 1305, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, before June 1, 2014.

SECTION 6. 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 135, Nays 12, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 796 on May 24, 2013: Yeas 124, Nays 21, 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.