CHAPTER 1354
S.B. No. 1404
AN ACT
relating to attendance at and completion of high school by students who are in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (b), Section 25.007, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) In recognition of the challenges faced by students in substitute care, the agency shall assist the transition of substitute care students from one school to another by:

(1) ensuring that school records for a student in substitute care are transferred to the student's new school not later than the 14th day after the date the student begins enrollment at the school;

(2) developing systems to ease transition of a student in substitute care during the first two weeks of enrollment at a new school;

(3) developing procedures for awarding credit, including partial credit if appropriate, for course work, including electives, completed by a student in substitute care while enrolled at another school;

(4) promoting practices that facilitate access by a student in substitute care to extracurricular programs, summer programs, credit transfer services, electronic courses provided under Chapter 30A, and after-school tutoring programs at nominal or no cost;

(5) establishing procedures to lessen the adverse impact of the movement of a student in substitute care to a new school;

(6) entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Family and Protective Services regarding the exchange of information as appropriate to facilitate the transition of students in substitute care from one school to another;

(7) encouraging school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide services for a student in substitute care in transition when applying for admission to postsecondary study and when seeking sources of funding for postsecondary study;

(8) requiring school districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter schools to accept a referral for special education services made for a student in substitute care by a school previously attended by the student; [and]

(9) providing other assistance as identified by the agency;

(10) developing procedures for allowing a student in substitute care who was previously enrolled in a course required for graduation the opportunity, to the extent practicable, to complete the course, at no cost to the student, before the beginning of the next school year;

(11) ensuring that a student in substitute care who is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following the student's enrollment in grade nine, as determined by the district, has the student's course credit accrual and personal graduation plan reviewed; and

(12) ensuring that a student in substitute care who is in grade 11 or 12 be provided information regarding tuition and fee exemptions under Section 54.386 for dual-credit or other courses provided by a public institution of higher education for which a high school student may earn joint high school and college credit.

SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 25.087, 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; [see]
(E) serving as an election clerk; or
(F) if the student is in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services, participating in an activity ordered by a court under Chapter 262 or 263, Family Code, provided that it is not practicable to schedule the participation outside of school hours; or
(2) a temporary absence resulting from health care professionals if that student commences classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment.

SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 28.0213, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:
(a) A school district shall offer an intensive program of instruction to a student who:
(1) does not perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered under Subchapter B, Chapter 39; or
(2) is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following the student's enrollment in grade nine, as determined by the district.

SECTION 4. Section 28.025, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:
(i) If an 11th or 12th grade student in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services transfers to a different school district and the student is ineligible to graduate from the district to which the student transfers, the district from which the student transferred shall award a diploma at the student's request, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the district from which the student transferred.

SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

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 the Senate on April 4, 2013: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House on May 22, 2013: Yeas 148, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 1355
S.B. No. 1423

AN ACT
relating to validating certain acts of the Lower Nueces River Water Supply District transferring real property rights.

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

SECTION 1. On or before August 1, 1986, in accordance with Chapter 844, Acts of the 69th Legislature, Regular Session, 1985, the board of directors of the Lower Nueces River Water Supply District paid or provided for the payment of all debts and liabilities of the district and transferred all district assets to the City of Corpus Christi, including all district rights to real property. Additionally, the district's enabling legislation, Chapter 159, Acts of the 51st Legislature, Regular Session, 1949, was repealed, and the Lower Nueces River Water Supply District was dissolved in accordance with Chapter 844.

SECTION 2. (a) The governmental acts and proceedings of the Lower Nueces River Water Supply District taken to comply with Chapter 844, Acts of the 69th Legislature,