(c) A request for an opinion must be in writing and sent by certified or registered mail, with return receipt requested, addressed to the office of the attorney general in Austin, or electronically to an electronic mail address designated by the attorney general for the purpose of receiving requests for opinions under this section. The attorney general shall:

(1) acknowledge receipt of the request not later than the 15th day after the date that it is received; and

(2) issue the opinion not later than the 180th day after the date that it is received, unless before that deadline the attorney general notifies the requesting person in writing that the opinion will be delayed or not rendered and states the reasons for the delay or refusal.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on March 13, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 16, 2013: Yeas 144, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 404

S.B. No. 260

AN ACT
relating to the absence of a student from school to visit with a parent, stepparent, or guardian who will be or has been deployed on military duty.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.087, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-4) and amending Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(b-4) A school district shall excuse a student whose parent, stepparent, or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by Section 162.002 and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from continuous deployment of at least four months outside the locality where the parent, stepparent, or guardian regularly resides, to visit with the student’s parent, stepparent, or guardian. A school district may not excuse a student under this subsection more than five days in a school year. An excused absence under this subsection must be taken:

(1) not earlier than the 60th day before the date of deployment; or

(2) not later than the 30th day after the date of return from deployment.

(d) A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b), (b-2), (b-4), or (c) may not be penalized for that absence and shall be counted as if the student attended school for purposes of calculating the average daily attendance of students in the school district. A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b), (b-2), (b-4), or (c) shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed on those days. If the student satisfactorily completes the school work, the day of absence shall be counted as a day of compulsory attendance.

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 the Senate on April 18, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 17, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendment, on May 14, 2013: Yeas 143, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.