

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1527

5 By: Representatives Bentley, Beck, K. Brown, John Carr, C. Cooper, Crawford, Gramlich, Haak, D.
6 Hodges, Ladyman, McAlindon, S. Meeks, R. Scott Richardson, Richmond, Rose, Rye, Vaught, Wing
7 By: Senator J. Bryant
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENT THAT PUBLIC SCHOOL
11 DISTRICTS GRANT EXCUSED ABSENCES TO STUDENTS WHO
12 PARTICIPATE IN 4-H ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS; AND FOR
13 OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16
17 TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENT THAT PUBLIC
18 SCHOOL DISTRICTS GRANT EXCUSED ABSENCES
19 TO STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN 4-H
20 ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-220(b), concerning class absences of
26 students participating in certain activities, is amended to read as follows:

27 (b) ~~Therefore, it~~ It is the purpose and intent of this section to
28 ~~assure~~ ensure that class absences of students who are participating in
29 ~~sanctioned National FFA Organization, Family, Career and Community Leaders of~~
30 ~~America, Inc., and 4-H activities~~ the following programs are excused to ~~such~~
31 the extent as may be determined by the established by public school district
32 boards of directors ~~of the respective districts~~, with the participants in the
33 three (3) programs being treated equally with respect to such absences+;

34 (1) National FFA Organization;

35 (2) The Arkansas Family, Career and Community Leaders of
36 America, Inc.; and



1 (3)(A) 4-H.

2 (B) An absence granted to a student due to the student's
3 participation in a 4-H activity or program shall be determined according to
4 subsection (d) of this section.

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6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-220, concerning student absences
7 granted for participation in National FFA Organization, The Arkansas Family,
8 Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., and 4-H programs, is amended
9 to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

10 (d)(1) A student who is absent from the school district in which he or
11 she is enrolled shall be granted an excused absence by the public school
12 district if the reason for the student's absence is to participate in 4-H
13 activities or programs that are scheduled and approved by a county extension
14 agent, 4-H educator, or other appropriate authority.

15 (2) The maximum number of excused absences granted under
16 subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall be established by each public school
17 district board of directors in the public school district's student
18 attendance policy.

19 (3) A 4-H county extension agent, 4-H educator, or other
20 appropriate entity associated with the 4-H activity or program shall provide
21 to a public school principal or other designated official upon request
22 documentation as proof of a student's participation in an activity or program
23 scheduled and approved by the 4-H program.

24 (4) A student who is granted an absence under subdivision (d)(1)
25 of this section shall:

26 (A) Be given the opportunity to complete any schoolwork
27 that was missed while the student was absent; and

28 (B) Not have his or her grades adversely affected due to
29 his or her:

30 (i) Absence from a class due to his or her
31 participation in a 4-H activity or a program; or

32 (ii) Participation in a 4-H activity or a program.

33 (5) A public school principal or his or her designee shall not
34 grant a student an excused absence under subdivision (d)(1) of this section
35 if the student's participation in a 4-H activity or a program occurs during a
36 period of time:

1 (A) Scheduled by the State Board of Education during which
2 statewide student assessments are administered; or

3 (B) For which the student has been disciplined, suspended,
4 or expelled, if the terms of the discipline, suspension, or expulsion would
5 preclude the student from participating in a school-sponsored educational
6 field trip or extracurricular activity.

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