

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 678

Short Title: Excused Absences for 4-H Participation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Sasser, Willis, Elmore, and Blackwell (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 19, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR
3 PARTICIPATION IN 4-H ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-379(b) reads as rewritten:

6 "(b) In addition to any excused absences authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of this
7 section, the rules shall require school principals to authorize the following excused absences:

8 (1) Religious observance. – A minimum of two excused absences each academic
9 year for religious observances required by the faith of a student or the student's
10 parent or legal guardian.

11 (2) Military leave. – A minimum of two excused absences each academic year, if
12 all of the following conditions are met:

13 a. The student's parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the
14 uniformed services, as defined by Article 29B of this Chapter, the
15 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

16 b. The student's parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for, is on
17 leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat
18 zone or combat support posting.

19 c. The student is not identified by the local school administrative unit as
20 at risk of academic failure because of unexcused absences.

21 (3) 4-H participation. – Excused absences for participation in an activity or
22 program operated by a 4-H club that has been approved by the county 4-H
23 educator, subject to the following conditions:

24 a. The 4-H educator shall provide proof of the student's attendance at the
25 activity or program upon request of the student's principal.

26 b. The absence shall not be on a day scheduled for the administration of
27 statewide student assessments or end-of-grade assessments.

28 c. The absence shall not be on a day when the student is subject to
29 disciplinary action and would not otherwise be permitted to attend a
30 school trip or participate in extracurricular activities.

31 The rules may require that the student's parent or legal guardian give the principal written
32 notice of the request for an excused absence a reasonable time prior to the ~~religious observance~~
33 ~~or military leave.~~ absence authorized by this subsection. The student shall be given the
34 opportunity to make up any tests or other work missed ~~due to an excused absence for a religious~~



1 ~~observance or military leave, and shall not have the student's grade adversely affected due to an~~
2 ~~excused absence authorized by this subsection."~~

3 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
4 the 2024-2025 school year.