

June 18, 2026
2026-2166-EBA
07/09

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 1573

The Committee on Enrolled Bills to which was referred HB 1573

AN ACT permitting excused absences for student participation in certain activities and mandating the state board of education to grant school reassignment requests for students demonstrating a manifest educational hardship

Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill as amended ought to pass.

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Explanation to Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 1573

This enrolled bill amendment makes a technical correction to the bill and inserts a contingency to avoid a conflict should HB 1448 of the 2026 regular legislative session become law.

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 1573

Amend RSA 193:1-d, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing line 2 with the following:

events during the school day shall have their school absences excused.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 4 with the following:

5 New Paragraph; Duties of the State Board of Education. Amend RSA 186:11 by inserting after paragraph XXXVIII the following new paragraph:

XXXIX. Civic and Career Technical Education. The state board of education shall develop and maintain rules pursuant to RSA 193:1-d civic and CTE events, such as testifying on legislation; serving on membership on statutory or executive New Hampshire youth advisory councils; and attending local government meetings or hearings, to count as alternative academic credit in public, public charter, and private secondary schools that serve as public schools under RSA 193:3, VII, including fulfillment of the civic education graduation requirement. In addition, the board shall develop and maintain a list of recognized career and technical education organizations that shall be used to determine if an absence shall be excused under RSA 193:1-d, II(b)(1). The initial list of

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recognized career and technical education organizations shall include, at minimum: 4-H; Future Farmers of America (FFA); Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); SkillsUSA; Future Health Professionals (HOSA); DECA; and the Technology Student Association (TSA). This list shall be reviewed annually and shared with school administrators.

6 New Section; Excused Absences for Civic and Career Technical Education Activities. Amend RSA 193 by inserting after section 1-c the following new section:

193:1-d Excused Absences for Civic and Career Technical Education Activities.

I. Students in public or public charter primary or secondary schools who wish to attend civic events during the school day shall have their school absences excused.

II. For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Civic event" means:

(1) Any event, activity, hearing, or meeting held by a federal, state, county, or local government office, agency, or body; or

(2) Any educational program, competition, or award ceremony sponsored or hosted by a patriotic or national organization, listed in 36 U.S.C., Subtitle II, Part B.

(b) "Career or technical education event," or "CTE event," means:

(1) State, regional, or national competitions or conferences sponsored by CTE student organizations recognized by the state board of education pursuant to RSA 186:11, XXXIX;

(2) Agricultural fairs where students are exhibiting livestock or project work; or

(3) Individual job shadows or workplace observations of no more than one school day per employer.

III. Schools shall be required to excuse 2 of a student's school day absences per academic year for civic or CTE events.

(a) This paragraph shall not preclude schools from excusing further absences at their own discretion.

(b) Participation in activities related to statutory or executive New Hampshire youth advisory councils, either as a member or a guest, shall supersede this paragraph and shall always be excused.

(c) Students attending multi-day civics or CTE programs may have absences for such programs excused with proof of attendance.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prevent schools from requiring students to complete schoolwork missed due to an excused absence.

(e) Except as provided under paragraph III(b), students seeking more than 2 excused absences per academic year for ongoing participation in the same civic or CTE activity shall enroll in an extended learning opportunity. All absences to engage in an extended learning opportunity plan approved by the student's school shall be excused, contingent on the student completing any schoolwork missed.

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IV. Schools may require students provide evidence of attendance of the activity they claim participation in to verify the justification of the absence. Such evidence may include:

(a) A form created by the school and signed by an official of the activity, such as a New Hampshire house or senate committee clerk or other government staffer, or event official; or

(b) A letter of excusal signed by a government or event official.

V. In addition to the requirements outlined in paragraph III, parents shall submit a notice to school administrators no less than two school days before their student intends to be absent to attend a civic or CTE event, with the exception of election days.

7 Contingency. If HB 1448 of the 2026 regular legislative session becomes law, sections 1 and 2 of this act shall not take effect and sections 5 and 6 of this act shall take effect upon its passage. If HB 1448 of the 2026 regular legislative session does not become law, sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect upon its passage and sections 5 and 6 of this act shall not take effect.

8 Effective Date.

I. Sections 1, 2, 5, and 6 of this act shall take effect as provide in section 7 of this act.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.