

HB 1573 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

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2026 SESSION

26-2868

12/06

HOUSE BILL **1573**

AN ACT permitting excused absences for students participating in civic engagement or attending a career or technical education event.

SPONSORS: Rep. Thibault, Merr. 25; Rep. Drye, Sull. 7; Rep. Farrington, Straf. 8; Rep. Freeman, Belk. 8; Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Belk. 3; Rep. Litchfield, Rock. 32; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4; Rep. Wheeler, Hills. 33; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Administration

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ANALYSIS

This bill permits excused absences for students that are participating in civic engagement activities and career or technical education (CTE) activities so long as parental notice is provided to schools and other requirements are met. The bill also directs the state board of education to develop rules and alternative academic credits relative to participation in civic or CTE activities.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

AN ACT permitting excused absences for students participating in civic engagement or attending a career or technical education event.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

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

3 193:1-d Excused Absences for Civic and Career Technical Education Activities.

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

6 II. For the purposes of this section:

7 (a) A “civic event” shall be defined as any event, activity, hearing, or meeting held by  
8 federal, state, or local government bodies.

9 (b) A “career or technical education event,” or “CTE event,” shall be defined as any event  
10 or activity relating to a career or technical education curriculum or student organization, such as 4-  
11 H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), Future Business Leaders of America, SkillsUSA, Health  
12 Occupations Students of America (HOSA), or DECA.

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

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

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

20 (c) Students attending multi-day conferences for career and technical student  
21 organizations may have absences for such conferences excused with proof of attendance.

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

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

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

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

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1           2 New Paragraph; Duties of the State Board of Education. Amend RSA 186:11 by inserting  
2 after paragraph XXXVII the following new paragraph:

3           XXXVIII. Civic and Career Technical Education. The state board of education shall develop  
4 and maintain rules pursuant to RSA 193:1-d civic and CTE events, such as testifying on legislation;  
5 serving on membership on statutory or executive New Hampshire youth advisory councils; and  
6 attending local government meetings or hearings, to count as alternative academic credit in public,  
7 public charter, and private secondary schools that serve as public schools under RSA 193:3, VII,  
8 including fulfillment of the civic education graduation requirement.

9           3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.