

Amendment to HB 1573

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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3 AN ACT permitting excused absences for student participation in certain activities and  
4 mandating the state board of education to grant school reassignment requests for  
5 students demonstrating a manifest educational hardship.  
6

7 Amend RSA 193:1-d, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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9 II. For the purposes of this section:

10 (a) "Civic event" means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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22 Amend RSA 193:1-d, III(c) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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

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

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

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1 Amend RSA 193:1-d, IV(b) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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

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5 Amend RSA 186:11, XXXVIII as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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7 XXXVIII. Civic and Career Technical Education. The state board of education shall develop  
8 and maintain rules pursuant to RSA 193:1-d civic and CTE events, such as testifying on legislation;  
9 serving on membership on statutory or executive New Hampshire youth advisory councils; and  
10 attending local government meetings or hearings, to count as alternative academic credit in public,  
11 public charter, and private secondary schools that serve as public schools under RSA 193:3, VII,  
12 including fulfillment of the civic education graduation requirement. In addition, the board shall  
13 develop and maintain a list of recognized career and technical education organizations that shall be  
14 used to determine if an absence shall be excused under RSA 193:1-d, II(b)(1). The initial list of  
15 recognized career and technical education organizations shall include, at minimum: 4-H; Future  
16 Farmers of America (FFA); Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); SkillsUSA; Future Health  
17 Professionals (HOSA); DECA; and the Technology Student Association (TSA). This list shall be  
18 reviewed annually and shared with school administrators.

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20 Amend the bill by replacing all after section 2 with the following:

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22 3 New Subparagraph; Change of School or Assignment; Best Interest of Student; Manifest  
23 Educational Hardship; Procedure for Appeals Modified. Amend RSA 193:3, II by inserting after  
24 subparagraph (g) the following new subparagraphs:

25 (1) Pursuant to this subparagraph, if the state board of education finds that the  
26 student has a manifest educational hardship, the state board of education shall grant the parent's or  
27 guardian's request to re-assign the student to another public school, public academy, or an approved  
28 private school within the district, or to a public school, public academy, or an approved private school  
29 in another district.

30 (2) The student shall be enrolled in the receiving public school, public academy, or  
31 approved private school, subject only to the limitations set forth in RSA 193:3, III-a(d) and the  
32 admission requirements described in RSA 193:3, III-a(f).

33 4 School Attendance; Legal Residence Required; Exceptions; Cross-Reference Added. Amend  
34 RSA 193:12, I to read as follows:

35 I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall attend school, or send a pupil  
36 to the school, in any district of which the pupil is not a legal resident, without the consent of the

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1 district or of the school board except as otherwise provided in this section, **RSA 193:3**, or ~~in~~ RSA  
2 193:28.

3       **5** Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. 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.

II. Directs the state board of education to develop rules, a list of recognized CTE organizations, and alternative academic credits relative to participation in civic or CTE activities.

III. Mandates that the state board of education, on appeal, grant a parent's or guardian's request to re-assign their student to another public school, public academy, or an approved private school where such parent or guardian demonstrates the student has a manifest educational hardship.

IV. Adds a statutory cross-reference to the exceptions for legal residence requirements relative to school attendance.