

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 540 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, FOLMER, ARGALL, FONTANA, COSTA, VULAKOVICH, SCAVELLO, RAFFERTY, BREWSTER, RESCHENTHALER, AUMENT, SABATINA, SCARNATI, YUDICHAK AND WARD, MARCH 24, 2017

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, OCTOBER 25, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in pupils and attendance, further
6 providing for excuses from attending school.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1329 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
11 amended by adding a subsection to read:

12 Section 1329. Excuses from Attending School.--* * *

13 (a.2) (1) The following shall apply:

14 (i) A school district shall excuse a student from school
15 attendance to participate in a musical performance in
16 conjunction with a national veterans' organization or
17 incorporated unit for an event or funeral. The national
18 veterans' organization or incorporated unit must provide the
19 student with a signed excuse, which shall include the date,

1 location and time of the event or funeral. The student shall
2 furnish the signed excuse to the school district prior to being
3 excused from school.

4 (ii) A school district may not excuse a student from school
5 under subparagraph (i) if the student's excused time would
6 result in a violation of minimum hours of instruction time
7 required under 22 Pa. Code § 11.3 (relating to minimum required
8 hours).

9 (iii) A student's excused time under this subsection may be
10 credited toward volunteering or community service hours required
11 for graduation.

12 (IV) A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO EXCUSE A <--
13 STUDENT FROM SCHOOL UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) IF THE STUDENT'S
14 EXCUSED TIME WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF A
15 STATE ASSESSMENT.

16 (2) As used in this subsection, the following words and
17 phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this paragraph:

18 "Incorporated unit." An incorporated post, branch, camp,
19 detachment, lodge or other subordinate unit of a national
20 veterans' organization.

21 "National veterans' organization." A veterans' organization
22 having a national charter.

23 "STATE ASSESSMENT." THE PENNSYLVANIA SYSTEM OF SCHOOL <--
24 ASSESSMENT TEST, KEYSTONE EXAM OR ANOTHER TEST ESTABLISHED OR
25 APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
26 TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 2603-B OR 22 PA. CODE § 4.51
27 (RELATING TO STATE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM) OR REQUIRED UNDER THE
28 EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (PUBLIC LAW 114-95, 129 STAT. 1802)
29 OR ITS SUCCESSOR FEDERAL STATUTE.

30 * * *

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.