

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: S3/28/23

A Bill

SENATE BILL 285

By: Senator C. Tucker

By: Representative Hudson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR A STUDENT WHO ACCOMPANIES THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO VOTE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR A STUDENT WHO ACCOMPANIES THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO VOTE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-18-234. Voting – Excused absence.

(a)(1) A student enrolled in a school shall not be considered absent from the school in which the student is enrolled for the time during which the student accompanies the student's parent when the parent is exercising his or her right to vote in a scheduled election.

(2) A student may receive an excused absence under subdivision (a)(1) of this section only one (1) time during each scheduled election.

(3) A student who accompanies his or her parent when the parent is exercising his or her right to vote in a scheduled election is encouraged to demonstrate his or her attendance at the scheduled election by wearing an



official sticker, badge, or other item that indicates he or she attended the scheduled election upon his or her return to school.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Parent" means a student's parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to the student; and

(2) "School" means a school that is funded in whole or in part by state funds.

/s/C. Tucker

APPROVED: 4/11/23