

Fiscal Impact Statement

DATE: 3/29/2023

BILL: HB1698,

SPONSOR: Breaux

SUBTITLE:

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS RELEASED TIME EDUCATION ACT.

TOPIC

Student Attendance

AFFECTED FUNDS

[Click here to enter text.](#)

REVENUE IMPACT

No Fiscal Impact

ASSUMPTIONS - BASED ON:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

This bill creates a right for a student to attend a release time course for no more than five hours a week. A release time course is a course in religious moral instruction taught by an independent entity that a student is excused from school to attend. This bill would also allow for districts to award credit for a student attending a release time course.

All schools in Arkansas are required to develop a policy that excuses students from school to attend a release time course.

This bill also creates an appeal process for a student or organization aggrieved by a violation of a student's right to attend a release time course to the school board. The person or organization may also appeal the decision of the school board to the State Board of Education.