

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1139

By: Representative B. McKenzie

By: Senator J. Bryant

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE RELEASED TIME EDUCATION ACT; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE RELEASED TIME EDUCATION
ACT.

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:

6-18-237. Released Time Education Act.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Released Time Education Act".

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Released time course" means a course in religious moral instruction that is taught by an independent entity for which a student is excused from school to attend; and

(2) "School" means:

(A) A public school district; or

(B) An open-enrollment public charter school.

(c)(1) A school, upon request of the parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to an enrolled student, shall excuse the student from school to attend a released time course.

(2) A student under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall be excused from school to attend the released time course for at least one (1) hour each week but not more than five (5) hours each week.

