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H.B. 125
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Hall and Creech

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SUMMARY

- Requires a school district to count a student who participates in a district-approved school-sponsored or workforce preparation activity during school hours as being present at school.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Student attendance at school during district-approved activities

The bill requires a school district to consider a student in grades kindergarten through 12 as present at school during school hours if the student is participating in scheduled school-sponsored or workforce preparation activities approved by the district. Approved activities must include 4-H and FFA activities or programs, athletic tournaments, field trips, internships, shadowing opportunities, and any other activity approved by the district. In other words, under the bill, a school district must consider a student attending an approved event that may not be on campus as still in attendance in school for that school day.

The bill permits a district to require, as proof of participation in the approved activity, the submission of written documentation from an educator affiliated with the activity or a student's parent to a school principal or attendance officer. Districts must provide the student with the opportunity to make up any schoolwork missed during a student's participation in an approved activity. The bill prohibits a student's grades or a district or school's chronic absenteeism calculation from being adversely affected by a student's participation in an approved activity.¹

¹ R.C. 3321.044(A).

Exceptions

Nonetheless, the bill does require a school principal or designee to consider a student absent if the student's participation in an approved activity occurs during a scheduled administration of state assessments or any period of time for which the student has been disciplined, suspended, or expelled, if the terms of such punishment would preclude the student from otherwise participating in an educational field trip or extracurricular activity.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-24-25
Reported, H. Education	03-11-26
Passed House (95-0)	03-18-26

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² R.C. 3321.044(B).