



Rep. Curtis J. Tarver, II

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10400HB2976ham002

LRB104 08841 LNS 25058 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2976

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 2976 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 26-1 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/26-1) (from Ch. 122, par. 26-1)

7 Sec. 26-1. Compulsory school age; exemptions.

8 (a) Whoever has custody or control of any child (i)
9 between the ages of 7 and 17 years (unless the child has
10 already graduated from high school) for school years before
11 the 2014-2015 school year or (ii) between the ages of 6 (on or
12 before September 1) and 17 years (unless the child has already
13 graduated from high school) beginning with the 2014-2015
14 school year shall cause such child to attend some public
15 school in the district wherein the child resides the entire
16 time it is in session during the regular school term, except as

1 provided in Section 10-19.1, and during a required summer
2 school program established under Section 10-22.33B; provided,
3 that the following children shall not be required to attend
4 the public schools:

5 1. Any child attending a private or a parochial school
6 where children are taught the branches of education taught
7 to children of corresponding age and grade in the public
8 schools, and where the instruction of the child in the
9 branches of education is in the English language;

10 2. Any child who is physically or mentally unable to
11 attend school, such disability being certified to the
12 county or district truant officer by a competent physician
13 licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in
14 all its branches, a chiropractic physician licensed under
15 the Medical Practice Act of 1987, a licensed advanced
16 practice registered nurse, a licensed physician assistant,
17 or a Christian Science practitioner residing in this State
18 and listed in the Christian Science Journal; or who is
19 excused for temporary absence for cause by the principal
20 or teacher of the school which the child attends, with
21 absence for cause by illness being required to include the
22 mental or behavioral health of the child for up to 5 days
23 for which the child need not provide a medical note, in
24 which case the child shall be given the opportunity to
25 make up any school work missed during the mental or
26 behavioral health absence and, after the second mental

1 health day used, may be referred to the appropriate school
2 support personnel; the exemptions in this paragraph (2) do
3 not apply to any female who is pregnant or the mother of
4 one or more children, except where a female is unable to
5 attend school due to a complication arising from her
6 pregnancy and the existence of such complication is
7 certified to the county or district truant officer by a
8 competent physician;

9 3. Any child necessarily and lawfully employed
10 according to the provisions of the Child Labor Law of 2024
11 may be excused from attendance at school by the county
12 superintendent of schools or the superintendent of the
13 public school which the child should be attending, on
14 certification of the facts by and the recommendation of
15 the school board of the public school district in which
16 the child resides. In districts having part-time
17 continuation schools, children so excused shall attend
18 such schools at least 8 hours each week;

19 4. Any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in
20 attendance at confirmation classes;

21 5. Any child absent from a public school on a
22 particular day or days or at a particular time of day for
23 the reason that he is unable to attend classes or to
24 participate in any examination, study, or work
25 requirements on a particular day or days or at a
26 particular time of day because of religious reasons,

1 including the observance of a religious holiday or
2 participation in religious instruction, or because the
3 tenets of his religion forbid secular activity on a
4 particular day or days or at a particular time of day. A
5 school board may require the parent or guardian of a child
6 who is to be excused from attending school because of
7 religious reasons to give notice, not exceeding 5 days, of
8 the child's absence to the school principal or other
9 school personnel. Any child excused from attending school
10 under this paragraph 5 shall not be required to submit a
11 written excuse for such absence after returning to school.
12 A district superintendent shall develop and distribute to
13 schools appropriate procedures regarding a student's
14 absence for religious reasons, how schools are notified of
15 a student's impending absence for religious reasons, and
16 the requirements of Section 26-2b of this Code;

17 6. Any child 16 years of age or older who (i) submits
18 to a school district evidence of necessary and lawful
19 employment pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Section and
20 (ii) is enrolled in a graduation incentives program
21 pursuant to Section 26-16 of this Code or an alternative
22 learning opportunities program established pursuant to
23 Article 13B of this Code;

24 7. A child in any of grades 6 through 12 absent from a
25 public school on a particular day or days or at a
26 particular time of day for the purpose of sounding "Taps"

1 at a military honors funeral held in this State for a
2 deceased veteran. In order to be excused under this
3 paragraph 7, the student shall notify the school's
4 administration at least 2 days prior to the date of the
5 absence and shall provide the school's administration with
6 the date, time, and location of the military honors
7 funeral. The school's administration may waive this 2-day
8 notification requirement if the student did not receive at
9 least 2 days advance notice, but the student shall notify
10 the school's administration as soon as possible of the
11 absence. A student whose absence is excused under this
12 paragraph 7 shall be counted as if the student attended
13 school for purposes of calculating the average daily
14 attendance of students in the school district. A student
15 whose absence is excused under this paragraph 7 must be
16 allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed
17 during the absence. If the student satisfactorily
18 completes the school work, the day of absence shall be
19 counted as a day of compulsory attendance and he or she may
20 not be penalized for that absence; and

21 8. Any child absent from a public school on a
22 particular day or days or at a particular time of day for
23 the reason that his or her parent or legal guardian is an
24 active duty member of the uniformed services and has been
25 called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately
26 returned from deployment to a combat zone or

1 combat-support postings. Such a student shall be granted 5
2 days of excused absences in any school year and, at the
3 discretion of the school board, additional excused
4 absences to visit the student's parent or legal guardian
5 relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or
6 legal guardian. In the case of excused absences pursuant
7 to this paragraph 8, the student and parent or legal
8 guardian shall be responsible for obtaining assignments
9 from the student's teacher prior to any period of excused
10 absence and for ensuring that such assignments are
11 completed by the student prior to his or her return to
12 school from such period of excused absence.

13 (b) As used in this subsection (b), "civic event" means an
14 event sponsored by a nonprofit organization or governmental
15 entity that is open to the public. "Civic event" includes, but
16 is not limited to, an inauguration or an artistic or cultural
17 performance or educational gathering that supports the mission
18 of the sponsoring nonprofit organization. The State Board of
19 Education may adopt rules to further define "civic event". Any
20 child from a public middle school or high school, subject to
21 guidelines established by the State Board of Education, shall
22 be permitted by a school board one school day-long excused
23 absence per school year for the child who is absent from school
24 to engage in a civic event. The school board may require that
25 the student provide reasonable advance notice of the intended
26 absence to the appropriate school administrator and require

1 that the student provide documentation of participation in a
2 civic event to the appropriate school administrator.

3 (Source: P.A. 102-266, eff. 1-1-22; 102-321, eff. 1-1-22;
4 102-406, eff. 8-19-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 102-981, eff.
5 1-1-23; 103-721, eff. 1-1-25.)".