

[Second Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 1271

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman ELLEN J. PARK**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

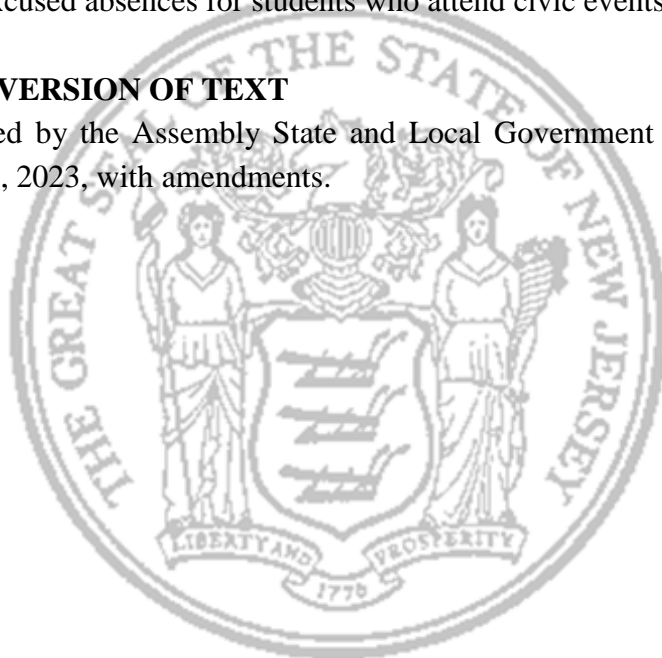
**Assemblywomen DeFuccio, Reynolds-Jackson, Jaffer, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Jasey, Pintor Marin, Murphy, Swain and Mosquera**

### SYNOPSIS

Permits excused absences for students who attend civic events.

### CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on December 18, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/8/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning excused absences from public school for civic  
 2 events and supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the New  
 3 Jersey Statutes.

4  
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
 6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
 8 <sup>1</sup>1. As used in this act, “civic event” means an event sponsored  
 9 by a government entity, <sup>2</sup>~~the community~~ a community-based  
 10 organization<sup>2</sup>, or a <sup>2</sup>~~local~~ nonprofit organization <sup>2</sup>~~to address~~  
 11 that incorporates elements of service learning whereby students learn  
 12 and develop through organized service. A civic event shall address<sup>2</sup>  
 13 an issue of public concern such as community health and safety or  
 14 environmental, economic, or community well-being.<sup>1</sup>

15  
 16 <sup>1</sup>~~1.~~ <sup>2</sup>2.<sup>1</sup> a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the  
 17 contrary, a pupil of a public school in grades six through 12 who is  
 18 absent from school to attend a civic event shall have one <sup>2</sup>~~State-~~  
 19 ~~excused~~<sup>2</sup> absence each school year for that purpose recorded as an  
 20 excused absence on the pupil’s attendance record or on that of any  
 21 group or class of which the pupil is a member <sup>2</sup>~~provided that a~~  
 22 ~~written notice signed by a parent or guardian of the pupil is~~  
 23 ~~presented to the proper school authority pursuant to subsection b. of~~  
 24 ~~this section~~<sup>2</sup>. A board of education may permit additional excused  
 25 absences for such purposes. Any transcript, application,  
 26 employment form, or any similar form on which information  
 27 concerning a pupil’s attendance record is requested shall show, with  
 28 respect to absences, only absences other than excused absences  
 29 authorized pursuant to this subsection.

30 b. The parent or guardian of a pupil shall provide <sup>2</sup>~~at least five~~  
 31 ~~school days’ notice~~ <sup>2</sup>a signed written notice of an intended excused  
 32 absence to attend a civic event at least five school days<sup>2</sup> in advance of  
 33 the intended excused absence and such <sup>2</sup>~~other~~<sup>2</sup> documentation as  
 34 the superintendent or administrative principal of the school district  
 35 deems necessary to prove that the pupil meets the requirements for  
 36 an excused absence pursuant to subsection a. of this section

37  
 38 <sup>1</sup>~~2.~~ <sup>2</sup>3.<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>a.<sup>2</sup> The Commissioner of Education, with the  
 39 approval of the State Board of Education, shall <sup>2</sup>~~prescribe rules~~  
 40 provide guidance to school districts<sup>2</sup> relative to <sup>2</sup>~~excused~~<sup>2</sup> absences  
 41 for civic events <sup>2</sup>~~including, but not limited to, a list of civic events~~  
 42 where it shall be mandatory to excuse a pupil. Nothing in this

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 10, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly ASL committee amendments adopted December 18, 2023.

1 section shall be construed to limit the right of a board of education,  
2 in its discretion, to excuse absences for civic events not included on  
3 the list<sup>2</sup>.

4 <sup>2</sup>b. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and  
5 regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968,  
6 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) necessary to effectuate the provisions of  
7 this act.<sup>2</sup>

8

9 <sup>1</sup>[3.] 4.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.