

HOUSE No. 4427

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 26, 2024.

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 447) of Josh S. Cutler, Paul A. Schmid, III and others relative to student participation in 4-H programs, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4427) ought to pass.

For the committee,

DENISE C. GARLICK.

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to supporting student participation in 4-H programs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 76 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 22. (a) A student who participates in an activity or program sponsored by
4 Massachusetts 4-H shall be credited as present, for a maximum of 5 school days, by the school in
5 which the student is enrolled in the same manner as an educational field trip. A school committee
6 shall not count a student absent, for a maximum of 5 school days, for participating in an activity
7 or program sponsored by Massachusetts 4-H.

8 (b) Upon request from a school committee, a Massachusetts 4-H agent shall provide
9 documentation as proof of a student's participation in an activity or program sponsored by
10 Massachusetts 4-H.

11 (c) A school committee shall ensure that a student has the opportunity to make up any
12 school work missed while the student was participating in an activity or program sponsored by
13 Massachusetts 4-H. A school committee shall ensure that a student's class grades are not

14 adversely affected for lack of attendance or participation due to the student's participation in an
15 activity or program sponsored by Massachusetts 4-H.

16 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a school committee shall not credit a student who
17 participates in an activity or program sponsored by Massachusetts 4-H as present if the student's
18 participation occurs during:

19 (1) The schedule established by the commissioner of education for the administration of
20 the Massachusetts comprehensive assessment system tests; or

21 (2) Any period of time for which the student has been suspended or expelled, if the
22 student's suspension or expulsion would otherwise preclude the student from participating in an
23 educational field trip.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect as of the 2024-2025 academic year.