

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

As Engrossed: S3/28/23

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 285

5 By: Senator C. Tucker  
6 By: Representative Hudson  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABSENCES FROM  
10 SCHOOL; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR A  
11 STUDENT WHO ACCOMPANIES THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR LEGAL  
12 GUARDIAN TO VOTE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABSENCES FROM  
16 SCHOOL; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXCUSED  
17 ABSENCE FOR A STUDENT WHO ACCOMPANIES THE  
18 STUDENT'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO  
19 VOTE.  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2, is amended  
26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 6-18-234. Voting – Excused absence.

28 (a)(1) A student enrolled in a school shall not be considered absent  
29 from the school in which the student is enrolled for the time during which  
30 the student accompanies the student's parent when the parent is exercising  
31 his or her right to vote in a scheduled election.

32 (2) A student may receive an excused absence under subdivision  
33 (a)(1) of this section only one (1) time during each scheduled election.

34 (3) A student who accompanies his or her parent when the parent  
35 is exercising his or her right to vote in a scheduled election is encouraged  
36 to demonstrate his or her attendance at the scheduled election by wearing an



1 official sticker, badge, or other item that indicates he or she attended the  
2 scheduled election upon his or her return to school.

3 (b) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Parent" means a student's parent, legal guardian, or person  
5 standing in loco parentis to the student; and

6 (2) "School" means a school that is funded in whole or in part by  
7 state funds.

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*/s/C. Tucker*

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**APPROVED: 4/11/23**

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