

Senate Bill No. 278

CHAPTER 204

An act to amend Section 48205 of the Education Code, relating to pupils.

[Approved by Governor September 11, 2007. Filed with
Secretary of State September 11, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 278, Lowenthal. Pupils: excused absences.

Existing law requires a pupil to be excused from school when the pupil is absent due to, among other things, justifiable personal reasons, including an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, or attendance at an employment conference.

This bill would add attendance at an education conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization to the justifiable personal reasons for which a pupil is required to be excused from school.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 48205 of the Education Code is amended to read: 48205. (a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:

- (1) Due to his or her illness.
- (2) Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.
- (3) For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic services rendered.
- (4) For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.
- (5) For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.
- (6) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.
- (7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian

and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

(8) For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.

(b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefor. The teacher of the class from which a pupil is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.

(c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.

(d) Absences pursuant to this section are deemed to be absences in computing average daily attendance and shall not generate state apportionment payments.

(e) “Immediate family,” as used in this section, has the same meaning as that set forth in Section 45194, except that references therein to “employee” shall be deemed to be references to “pupil.”