

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 796**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Carter**

February 26, 2009

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 796, as introduced, Carter. Pupil attendance: civic engagement activities.

Existing law authorizes a pupil to be excused from school for specified reasons, including for the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election. A pupil who is absent from school for these reasons is required to be permitted to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided.

This bill would include civic engagement activities offered by a nonprofit organization or a governmental entity among the types of absences that are excused.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 48205 of the Education Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 48205. (a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be
- 4 excused from school when the absence is:
- 5 (1) Due to his or her illness.

- 1 (2) Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city  
2 health officer.
- 3 (3) For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometrical, or  
4 chiropractic services rendered.
- 5 (4) For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member  
6 of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more  
7 than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more  
8 than three days if the service is conducted outside California.
- 9 (5) For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by  
10 law.
- 11 (6) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school  
12 hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.
- 13 (7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited  
14 to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service,  
15 observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion,  
16 attendance at religious retreats, attendance at an employment  
17 conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the  
18 legislative or judicial process *offered by a nonprofit organization,*  
19 *or participation in civic engagement activities* offered by a  
20 nonprofit organization *or governmental entity*, when the pupil's  
21 absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and  
22 approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant  
23 to uniform standards established by the governing board *of the*  
24 *school district*.
- 25 (8) For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board  
26 for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.
- 27 (b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be  
28 allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the  
29 absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory  
30 completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full  
31 credit ~~therefor~~ *for the assignments and tests*. The teacher of the  
32 class from which a pupil is absent shall determine which tests and  
33 assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily  
34 identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during  
35 the absence.
- 36 (c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats  
37 shall not exceed four hours per semester, *and participation in civic*  
38 *engagement activities shall not exceed 10 days per academic year*.

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

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

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