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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 135  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Hall and Creech

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### SUMMARY

- Requires school districts to grant excused absences to students for participation in scheduled 4-H and FFA activities or programs.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### 4-H and FFA excused absences

The bill requires school districts to grant excused absences for participation in scheduled 4-H and FFA activities or programs to students in grades K-12 and to allow those students to make up any school work missed as a result of that absence. To qualify as an excused absence, a 4-H or FFA educator must submit written documentation to the school principal or attendance officer as proof of student participation in a 4-H or FFA activity or program.

The bill, however, prohibits a school principal or a designee from granting an excused absence for participation in 4-H or FFA activities during either a scheduled administration of state assessments or any period of time for which the student has been disciplined by or suspended or expelled from school.<sup>1</sup>

Absences excused under this bill specifically are included when considering whether a student is excessively absent triggering a notice to the student's parent, guardian or custodian under continuing law. Under that law, a student is considered excessively absent when the student's combined nonmedical excused absences and unexcused absences exceed 38 hours in one school month or 65 hours in a school year. However, only a student's unexcused absences count toward truancy.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3321.043(B).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3321.191(C)(1), not in the bill.

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-28-23

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