**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 4257**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. J.E. Johnson, Lowe, Mitchell, Yow, Brittain, Jordan, B. Newton, Caskey, Gilliam, Rankin, Schuessler, Hayes, Guest, Crawford, Gagnon, McCabe, Pedalino and Hiott

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Introduced in the House on March 27, 2025

Currently residing in the House

Summary: Excused student absences

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 3/27/2025 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 16)

 3/27/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** (House Journal‑page 16)

 4/2/2025 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor:
 Brittain, Jordan, B. Newton, Caskey,
 Gilliam, Rankin, Schuessler, Hayes, Guest,
 Crawford, Gagnon, McCabe, Pedalino, Hiott

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[03/27/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4257_20250327.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59‑5‑65, RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ENFORCEMENT, SO AS TO PROVIDE THIS SYSTEM MUST REQUIRE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS TO APPROVE STUDENT ABSENCES FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY THE SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE ACTIVITY IS SANCTIONED BY THE south carolina HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE OR OTHER INTERSCHOLASTIC SANCTIONING ORGANIZATION; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 59‑65‑90, RELATING TO RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH TO DEFINE LAWFUL AND UNLAWFUL ABSENCES UNDER COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE STATUTES, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 59‑5‑65(4) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (4) Establish on or before July 1, 1985, regulations prescribing a uniform system of enforcement by the various school districts of the state compulsory attendance laws and regulations promulgated pursuant to Section 59‑65‑90. This uniform system of enforcement must require, or be construed to require, administrators to approve student absences required for participation in any interscholastic activity authorized for student participation by the school or school district, regardless of whether the activity is sanctioned by the South Carolina High School League or other entity that governs, sanctions, or operates interscholastic athletic and intramural activities and competitions.

SECTION 2. Section 59‑65‑90 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 59‑65‑90. (A) The State Board of Education shall establish regulations defining lawful and unlawful absences beyond those specifically named in this article and additional regulations as are necessary for the orderly enrollment of pupils so as to provide for uniform dates of entrance. These regulations shall require:

 (1) that school officials shall immediately intervene to encourage the student’s future attendance when the student has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences; and

 (2) that the district board of trustees or its designee shall promptly approve or disapprove any student absence in excess of ten days.; and

 (3) require administrators to approve student absences required for participation in any interscholastic activity approved for student participation by the school or school district, regardless of whether the activity is sanctioned by the South Carolina High School League or other interscholastic sanctioning organization.

 (B) As used in this section, “intervene” means to identify the reasons for the child’s continued absence and to develop a plan in conjunction with the student and his parent or guardian to improve his future attendance.

 (C) Provided, However, That nothing withinNo provision in this section shall interfere with the Board’s authority to at any time refer a child to a truancy prevention program or to the court pursuant to Section 59‑65‑50.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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