

Legislative Analysis



EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR A STUDENT TO SOUND TAPS

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House Bill 4157 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Coleman

Committee: Education

Complete to 4-11-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4157 would amend the Revised School Code to require that school officials at a public school count as an excused absence an instance in which a 6th- to 12th-grade public school student is absent from school because they are sounding taps at a military honors funeral being held in Michigan for a deceased veteran. The student could be excused for up to one full school day for this activity. Additionally, the board of a school district or intermediate school district (ISD) or the board of directors of a public school academy (PSA, or charter school) would have to ensure that its attendance policy was consistent with this requirement.

The bill would take effect 90 days after its enactment.

Proposed MCL 380.1138a

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

According to sponsor testimony, there is a shortage of individuals able to sound taps at funeral and memorial services for veterans of the armed forces. When an individual who can play taps is unavailable, a device that plays a recording of taps is placed inside of a bugle or trumpet. However, use of this device is considered to have less impact than a live rendition of taps. The bill would help to ensure that students in grades 6 to 12 who are able to play taps may do so without concern that they will be penalized for missing a portion of the school day to attend a veteran's funeral or memorial service.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill could create administrative costs for local school districts, ISDs, or PSAs to ensure that their attendance policies are consistent with those required by the bill. Costs would likely be minimal and absorbed using existing staff time.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Education indicated support for the bill. (3-7-23)

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