

MAKE ATTENDING CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL EVENTS EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR STUDENTS

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House Bill 4665 (H-1) as adopted
Sponsor: Rep. Angela Witwer
Committee: Education and Workforce
Complete to 10-23-25

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4665 would add a new section 1138a to the Revised School Code. This section would designate a student's absence from school as the result of their attendance at a scheduled competition, exhibition, or event offered by the Michigan or National Future Farmers of America (FFA), a 4-H club, or any other agricultural organization approved by the board of the student's school as an excused absence if that student is in good academic standing (as determined by the governing board of the student's school). The bill would not allow a student to exceed the number of excused absences allowed by their school district.

The governing board of a public school would have to ensure that its respective attendance policy reflects the provisions of the bill.

Proposed MCL 380.1138a

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

Supporters of the bill say it would ensure that students in agricultural clubs and programs are able to attend related educational events without adversely affecting their school attendance record. According to testimony offered in committee, Indiana recently passed a law with similar provisions that allow students to have up to six absences excused.

Michigan has more than 8,800 participants in 124 FFA chapters, with 130 schools also having agriscience or other agricultural clubs or programs that host various educational events throughout the year where student participants may need to miss school.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or on local school districts, ISDs, or PSAs.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following entities testified in support of the bill (10-22-25):

- Olivet Community Schools FFA
- Michigan FFA

The following entities indicated opposition to the bill (10-22-25)

- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals

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