

1 HB291
2 198316-2
3 By Representative Garrett
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 02-APR-19

1 credit is earned, to award students elective credit for
2 classes taken during the school day in released time programs.

3 Section 3. (a) As used in this section, the term
4 released time means a period of time during the school day
5 when a student is allowed to participate in an elective course
6 in religious instruction, conducted off school district
7 property, by a private entity.

8 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt and
9 each local board of education may implement a policy for a
10 student to attend released time as an elective course if all
11 of the following are satisfied:

12 (1) The parent or guardian of the student gives
13 written consent.

14 (2) The sponsoring entity maintains attendance
15 records and makes them available to the public school the
16 student attends.

17 (3) The sponsoring entity makes provisions for and
18 assumes liability for the student who is excused for released
19 time.

20 (4) No public funds are expended other than de
21 minimis administrative costs.

22 (5) No public school personnel are involved in
23 providing the religious instruction.

24 (c) In grades where credit is earned, a student who
25 participates in released time ~~shall~~ may earn elective course
26 credit for participation, as provided by rules adopted by the
27 State Board of Education for elective courses. Credit awarded

1 may not exceed normal credit given for an elective course in
2 the particular school system. The State Board of Education
3 shall also adopt minimum standards for class attendance
4 necessary to qualify for credit.

5 (d) A student who participates in religious
6 instruction for elective credit during released time shall be
7 credited with time spent as if the student attended school,
8 and the time shall be calculated as part of the actual school
9 day.

10 (e) Transportation to and from the place of released
11 time, including transportation for any student with
12 disabilities, is the complete responsibility of the sponsoring
13 private entity, parent, guardian, or student and may not be
14 arranged, coordinated, or provided for by public school
15 personnel.

16 (f) No student may be released from a required core
17 curriculum class to attend released time.

18 Section 4. This act shall become effective on the
19 first day of the third month following its passage and
20 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-
ferred to the House of Representa-
tives committee on Education Policy
..... 02-APR-19

Read for the second time and placed
on the calendar 1 amendment 25-APR-19

Read for the third time and passed
as amended..... 02-MAY-19

Yeas 87, Nays 9, Abstains 2

Jeff Woodard
Clerk