

**25/26-GA-08**

***Spontaneous  
Resolution***

**Bill Draft - LR1261**

**Title:** Public Schools – Student Attendance - Excused Absences for Civic Engagement

**Sponsored by:** Delegate Wilkins

**Committee Assignment:**

**FOR** the purpose of allowing public school students to receive excused absences for participating in civic engagement activities, including but not limited to submitting testimony, advocacy events, and meetings with elected officials; recognizing student participation at the local and state level.

**Proposed Position: SUPPORT**

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WHEREAS, civic participation is essential to the development of educated and engaged citizens, and schools play a significant role in providing student opportunities to practice civic engagement firsthand; and

WHEREAS, the bill enumerates testimony as an excusable absence reason, and further recognizes broader forms of civic engagement activities, including legislative advocacy days and participation in local government initiatives; and

WHEREAS civic engagement and legislative testimony are invaluable educational experiences that develop public speaking, leadership, and analytical skills aligned with the Maryland state curriculum standards for social studies and government; and

WHEREAS, MASC supports “[p]roviding students with the opportunity to speak on and testify about issues that directly affect them.” (MASC Platform, Plank I; I); and

WHEREAS, MASC supports “[y]outh involvement in the creation and revision of legislation impacting students at the local, state and national levels.” (MASC Platform, Plank I; J); therefore, be it hereby

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RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils supports Public Schools -  
Student Attendance - Excused Absences

“Can Education Reduce Political Polarization? Fostering Open-Minded Political Engagement During the Legislative Semester” by Brett Levy *University of Albany*