

HB 1569 -- SCHOOL ABSENCES

SPONSOR: Christofanelli

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 8 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by vote of 9 to 1 with 1 present.

Any public or charter school student whose parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for and will deploy within the next month to a combat zone or combat support posting, is on leave from a deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, or has returned within the previous month from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting shall be excused from a specified number of absences, no less than five, from school to visit the parent or guardian. Any assignments given by the student's teacher shall be obtained and completed before the student's return to school.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will ensure school children are able to spend time with their parent before that parent deploys to a combat zone.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Christofanelli and Missouri Education Reform Council.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.