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**SENATE BILL NO. 596** 

Offered January 12, 2022 Prefiled January 12, 2022

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-207.7, relating to school attendance; 4-H educational programs and activities.

## Patron—Pillion

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-207.7 as follows: § 22.1-207.7. 4-H educational programs and activities; attendance.

A. No student who misses a partial or full day of school while participating in a 4-H educational program or activity shall be counted as absent for the purposes of calculating average daily membership and each such student shall receive course credit in the same manner as he would for a school field trip, provided that:

1. Each local school board shall develop policies and procedures for such students to make up missed work;

2. Each local school board may determine the maximum number of school days per academic year that a student may spend participating in 4-H educational programs or activities to not be counted absent; and

3. No school shall provide course credit to a student pursuant this section if the student's participation in a 4-H educational program or activity occurs during scheduled Standards of Learning assessments or during any period of time that the student is suspended or expelled from school.

C. Upon request from a school principal or an assistant principal, an agent or representative from 4-H shall provide documentation as proof of a student's participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H.