

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 624

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTION 33-519, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE
2 PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN STUDENTS BEING EXCUSED FROM SCHOOL FOR A
3 CERTAIN PERIOD FOR RELIGIOUS OR OTHER PURPOSES.
4

5 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 SECTION 1. That Section 33-519, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
7 amended to read as follows:

8 33-519. RELEASE FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION. Upon application of his
9 parent or guardian, or, if the student has attained the age of eighteen
10 (18) years, upon application of the student, a student attending a public
11 school in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) may be excused from school for
12 a period not exceeding five (5) periods in any week ~~and~~ or not exceeding one
13 hundred sixty-five (165) hours per student during any one (1) school year for
14 religious or other purposes. Release time pursuant to this section shall be
15 scheduled by the board of trustees upon application as provided herein and
16 the board shall have reasonable discretion over the scheduling and timing
17 of the release time. Release time pursuant to this section shall not reduce
18 the minimum graduation requirements for accredited Idaho high schools. The
19 provisions of this section shall not be deemed to authorize the use of any
20 public school facility for religious instruction. The board of trustees of a
21 school district may not authorize the use of, and public school facilities,
22 personnel or equipment may not be utilized, to maintain attendance records
23 for the benefit of release time classes for religious instruction. No credit
24 shall be awarded by the school or school district for completion of courses
25 during release time for religious purposes. At the discretion of the board
26 credit may be granted for other purposes.