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2 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Councilmember Charles Allen

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5 A BILL
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10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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15 To amend, on a temporary basis, the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 provide
16 students with an excused absence of at least 2 hours to vote in person in any Board-run
17 election, or, if the student is not a District resident, in any election run by the jurisdiction
18 in which the student is registered to vote, and allow the educational institution to specify
19 the hours during which the student takes leave, including by requiring the student to take
20 leave during early voting.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
23 act may be cited as the “Leave to Vote Temporary Amendment Act of 2020”.

24 Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, approved August 12, 1955 (69
25 Stat. 699; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.01 *et seq.*), is amended by adding a new section 7a to
26 read as follows:

27 “Sec. 7a. Leave to vote.

28 “(a) For the purposes of this section, the term:

29 “(1) “Educational institution” means any school in the District of Columbia
30 Public Schools system, a public charter school, an independent school, a private school, a
31 parochial school, or a private instructor in the District.

32 “(2) “Student” means any person who is enrolled in an educational institution who
33 is eligible to vote.

34 “(b) Upon the request of a student, an educational institution shall provide the student an
35 excused absence of at least 2 hours to vote in person in any election held under this act, or, if the
36 student is not registered to vote in the District, in any election run by the jurisdiction in which the
37 student is registered to vote; provided, that the student’s educational institution may specify the
38 hours during which the student may take the leave, including by requiring that the student take
39 the leave during any period designated for early voting instead of on the day of the election.”.

40 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

41 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
42 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
43 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

44 Sec. 4. Effective date.

45 (a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by
46 the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review
47 as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
48 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
49 Columbia Register.

50 (b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.