

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1179**TITLE:** Religious Absences Expungement Consideration (RAEC) Act - 300 Codes Revision**AUTHOR(S):** Senate President Oscar Santiago Perez**SPONSOR(S):** Judiciary Chair Jonathan C. Stephens, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R. C. Marcelino, Senator Saketh Damara, Senator Matthew Reich

CHAPTER 323 SENATE ATTENDANCE (73-150, 74-133, 75-182, 76-204, 76-206, 76-245, 77-118, 80-180, 81-112, 82-177, 82-122, 82-170, 83-111, 83-115, 88-133, 94-114, 97-108, 98-100, 98-119, 2000-146, 2002-128, 2002-159, 2004-127, 2005-123, 2006-125, 2007-144, 2008-118, 2008-129, 2011-117, 2012-102, 2014-111, 2015-109, 2020-1022, 2020-1042, 2020-1066)

- 323.33 During the Summer A and Summer B terms, if a Student Senator accumulates two (2) unexcused or three (3) combined absences (excused or unexcused) from the Student Senate, it shall constitute resignation by non-attendance. During the Fall and Spring terms, if a Student Senator accumulates three (3) unexcused or four (4) combined absences (excused or unexcused) from the Student Senate, it shall constitute resignation by non-attendance.
- 323.34 Upon resignation by nonattendance of a Student Senator, the Rules and Ethics Chairperson shall send a letter by email or standard post to notify the Student Senator of their resignation. The Rules and Ethics Chairperson shall notify the Senate President Pro-Tempore before the next regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting.
- 323.4 The Rules and Ethics Committee shall hear appeals from this chapter.
- 323.41 If a Student Senator wishes to submit an appeal of their resignation by nonattendance, the Student Senator must do so within seven (7) calendar days of postmark to the Rules and Ethics Chairman via email or standard post. Provided the Seat has not been filled, this deadline may be waived at the discretion of the Rules and Ethics Committee only in extenuating circumstances.
- 323.42 If a Student Senator appeals after having resigned by non-attendance, that Student Senator may be reinstated and up to two (2) absences removed for good cause shown, upon recommendation by two-thirds (2/3) of the Rules and Ethics Committee and majority vote of the Student Senate, provided such Student Senator has not been replaced in accordance with Chapter 340.
- 323.421 If a Student Senator was excused for a religious holiday during the term they were resigned by non-attendance, the committee will give strong weight to this evidence during an appeal. If the Rules and Ethics Committee approves the

appeal, the committee shall expunge one (1) absence from the senator's record.

323.4322 Failure to receive a warning letter after reaching two absences during the Fall or Spring term or after reaching one absence in the Summer A or Summer B term shall not be used as an acceptable argument in appeal.

323.443 Any newly elected Student Senator, whether elected for the first time or re-elected to the Student Senate will begin the term of office with "zero" absences.

323.454 The following guidelines shall be used for unacceptable reasons for absences from the regular Student Senate meetings.

1. "Regular meetings of organizations, clubs, committees, etc."
2. Studying or non-University of Florida sponsored review sessions.
3. Out-of-town trips not pertaining to approved Student Senate, Student Government, or University of Florida business, or trips not properly documented for employment interviews (out-of- town trips for reasons of unavoidable personal emergencies may be approved).
4. Regular employment schedules.
5. Regularly scheduled classes.
6. Graduate/Professional School entrance exam preparation courses. This includes but is not limited to LSAT, GMAT, GRE, etc. preparation courses.

323.465 Guidelines to be used for acceptable reasons for absences from the regular Student Senate meetings shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Death in the family
2. Exam, with proper authority signature (This includes but is not limited to professor, teaching assistant, and academic advisor.)
3. Illness
4. Car accidents
5. Acts of God
6. Academic commitments, with proper documentation
7. Religious holiday, with pertinent information about the observance

323.476 The Student Senate reserves the right to determine the validity of all excuses.

323.487 If a Student Senator believes that an absence should be recorded as excused, that Student Senator must submit an excuse no later than seven (7) calendar days following the absence.

Oscar Santiago Perez 9/15/23
Senate President Date

Olivia Green 9/20/23
Student Body President Date

9/25/23

Date Sent to VPSL Office

Will be enacted if not vetoed within 10 days