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Outgoing Greek govt scraps religious affiliation on HS diplomas



The outgoing leadership of Greece's education ministry abruptly announced a decision this week whereby high school diplomas will no longer feature religious affiliation, overturning a decades-long practice in the predominately Orthodox Christian nation of 11 million.

The listing of religious affiliation can only be featured on the certificates if a pupil's parents submit a notarized affirmation requesting the former.

The decision by the hard left SYRIZA government comes less than a month before general elections are held in the country, and before a new penal code comes into effect on July 1.

The outgoing government and a slim majority of Parliament deputies tabled and ratified modifications in the country's penal code late last month, after the Greek prime minister previously said he would resign and call for snap elections. The outgoing government took advantage of the fact that the general election had not

been officially declared in the government gazette to in order to pass last-minute, and often contentious legislation.

Among others, a misdemeanor law prohibiting the insult to religion and the deceased was scrapped.