



**AN ACT CONCERNING TRUANCY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-198a of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2003*):

4 (c) If the parent or other person having control of a child who is a  
5 truant fails to attend the meeting held pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
6 subsection (b) of this section or if such parent or other person  
7 otherwise fails to cooperate with the school in attempting to solve the  
8 truancy problem, such policies and procedures shall require the  
9 superintendent of schools to file for each such truant enrolled in the  
10 schools under [his] the superintendent's jurisdiction a written  
11 complaint with the Superior Court pursuant to section 46b-149, as  
12 amended by this act, alleging the belief that the acts or omissions of the  
13 child are such that [his] the child's family is a family with service  
14 needs. Such complaint shall be filed not later than ten days after such  
15 parent or other person having control of a child who is a truant fails to  
16 attend such meeting or otherwise fails to cooperate with the school in  
17 attempting to solve the truancy problem.

18 Sec. 2. Subsection (h) of section 46b-149 of the general statutes is  
19 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
20 *1, 2003*):

21 (h) If the court finds, based on clear and convincing evidence, that  
22 the family of a child is a family with service needs, the court may, in  
23 addition to issuing any orders under section 46b-121, (1) refer the child  
24 to the Department of Children and Families for any voluntary services  
25 provided by said department or, if the family is a family with service  
26 needs solely as a result of a finding that a child is a truant or habitual  
27 truant, to the authorities of the local or regional school district or  
28 private school for services provided by such school district or such  
29 school, which services may include summer school, or to community  
30 agencies providing child and family services; (2) commit [that] the  
31 child to the care and custody of the Commissioner of Children and  
32 Families for an indefinite period not to exceed eighteen months; (3)  
33 order the child to remain in [his] the child's own home or in the  
34 custody of a relative or any other suitable person (A) subject to the  
35 supervision of a probation officer, or (B) in the case of a family which is  
36 a family with service needs solely as a result of a finding that a child is  
37 a truant or habitual truant, subject to the supervision of a probation  
38 officer and the authorities of the local or regional school district or  
39 private school; [or] (4) if the family is a family with service needs as a  
40 result of the child engaging in sexual intercourse with another person  
41 and such other person is thirteen years of age or older and not more  
42 than two years older or younger than such child, (A) refer the child to  
43 a youth service bureau or other appropriate service agency for  
44 participation in a program such as a teen pregnancy program or a  
45 sexually transmitted disease program, and (B) require such child to  
46 perform community service such as service in a hospital, an AIDS  
47 prevention program or an obstetrical and gynecological program; or  
48 (5) if the family is a family with service needs solely as a result of a  
49 finding that a child is a truant or habitual truant, (A) order the parent,  
50 guardian or other person having control of the child to perform  
51 community service for a number of hours as determined by the court,  
52 or (B) impose a civil penalty on the parent, guardian or other person  
53 having control of the child in an amount not to exceed one thousand  
54 dollars for each such finding made by the court. If the court issues any  
55 order which regulates future conduct of the child, parent or guardian,

