



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

***Raised Bill No. 5582***

LCO No. 1995

\*01995\_\_\_\_\_ED\_\*

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT TO PREVENT CHRONIC SCHOOL ABSENCE AND TRUANCY.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) Any local or regional school  
2 board that operates a school with a drop-out rate higher than the state  
3 average shall (1) form a truancy response team at such school  
4 consisting of appropriate school and community personnel, and (2)  
5 provide early intervention services for any child aged five to ten,  
6 inclusive, who has received two or more suspensions from school.

7 Sec. 2. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-198a of the general  
8 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
9 (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

10 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall adopt and  
11 implement policies and procedures concerning truants who are  
12 enrolled in schools under the jurisdiction of such board of education.  
13 Such policies and procedures shall include, but need not be limited to,  
14 the following: (1) The holding of a meeting with the parent of each  
15 child who is a truant, or other person having control of such child, and

16 appropriate school personnel to review and evaluate the reasons for  
17 the child being a truant, provided such meeting shall be held not later  
18 than ten school days after the child's fourth unexcused absence in a  
19 month or tenth unexcused absence in a school year, (2) a visit to the  
20 home of each child in a grade from kindergarten to nine, inclusive,  
21 whose parent, or other person having control of such child, refuses or  
22 fails to attend a meeting held pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
23 subsection, prior to the filing of a written complaint with the Superior  
24 Court pursuant to section 46b-149, as amended, alleging the belief that  
25 the acts or omissions of the child are such that the child's family is a  
26 family with service needs; (3) coordinating services with and referrals  
27 of children to community agencies providing child and family services,  
28 [(3)] (4) annually at the beginning of the school year and upon any  
29 enrollment during the school year, notifying the parent or other person  
30 having control of each child enrolled in a grade from kindergarten to  
31 [eight] twelve, inclusive, in the public schools in writing of the  
32 obligations of the parent or such other person pursuant to section 10-  
33 184, [(4)] (5) annually at the beginning of the school year and upon any  
34 enrollment during the school year, obtaining from the parent or other  
35 person having control of each child in a grade from kindergarten to  
36 [eight] twelve, inclusive, a telephone number or other means of  
37 contacting such parent or such other person during the school day, and  
38 [(5)] (6) a system of monitoring individual unexcused absences of  
39 children in grades kindergarten to [eight] twelve, inclusive, which  
40 shall provide that whenever a child enrolled in school in any such  
41 grade fails to report to school on a regularly scheduled school day and  
42 no indication has been received by school personnel that the child's  
43 parent or other person having control of the child is aware of the  
44 pupil's absence, a reasonable effort to notify, by telephone, the parent  
45 or such other person shall be made by school personnel or volunteers  
46 under the direction of school personnel. Any person who, in good  
47 faith, gives or fails to give notice pursuant to subdivision [(5)] (6) of  
48 this subsection shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal,  
49 which might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the

50 same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results  
51 from such notice or failure to give such notice.

52 (c) If the parent or other person having control of a child who is a  
53 truant fails to attend [the] a meeting held pursuant to subdivision (1)  
54 of subsection (b) of this section or if such parent or other person  
55 otherwise fails to cooperate with the school in attempting to solve the  
56 truancy problem, and school personnel have attempted to visit the  
57 home of such child pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this  
58 section, as amended, such policies and procedures shall require the  
59 superintendent of schools to file for each such truant enrolled in the  
60 schools under his jurisdiction either (1) a written complaint with the  
61 Superior Court pursuant to section 46b-149, as amended, alleging the  
62 belief that the acts or omissions of the child are such that his family is a  
63 family with service needs, or (2) a report of educational neglect with  
64 the Department of Children and Families based on truancy.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2004
Sec. 2	July 1, 2004

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide early intervention services to children in order to reduce truancy.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*