



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5582

February Session, 2004

* _____ HB05582JUD__042604_____ *

AN ACT TO PREVENT CHRONIC SCHOOL 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, and (2)
4 provide early intervention services for any child aged five to sixteen,
5 inclusive, who has received two or more suspensions from a school
6 within the school district under the jurisdiction of such board during
7 the previous or current school year.

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9 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof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

11 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall adopt and
12 implement policies and procedures concerning truants who are
13 enrolled in schools under the jurisdiction of such board of education.
14 Such policies and procedures shall include, but need not be limited to,
15 the following: (1) The holding of a meeting with the parent of each
16 child who is a truant, or other person having control of such child, and
17 appropriate school personnel to review and evaluate the reasons for
18 the child being a truant, [provided] and requiring that such meeting
19 [shall] be held not later than ten school days after the child's fourth
20 unexcused absence in a month or tenth unexcused absence in a school

21 year, (2) a visit by appropriate school personnel to the home of each
22 child in a grade from kindergarten to nine, inclusive, whose parent, or
23 other person having control of such child, refuses or fails to attend a
24 meeting held pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, (3)
25 coordinating services with and referrals of children to community
26 agencies providing child and family services, [(3)] (4) annually at the
27 beginning of the school year and upon any enrollment during the
28 school year, notifying the parent or other person having control of each
29 child enrolled [in a grade from kindergarten to eight, inclusive,] in the
30 public schools in writing of the obligations of the parent or such other
31 person pursuant to section 10-184, [(4)] (5) annually at the beginning of
32 the school year and upon any enrollment during the school year,
33 obtaining from the parent or other person having control of each child,
34 [in a grade from kindergarten to eight, inclusive,] a telephone number
35 or other means of contacting such parent or such other person during
36 the school day, and [(5)] (6) a system of monitoring individual
37 unexcused absences of children [in grades kindergarten to eight,
38 inclusive,] which shall provide that whenever a child enrolled in
39 school [in any such grade] fails to report to school on a regularly
40 scheduled school day and no indication has been received by school
41 personnel that the child's parent or other person having control of the
42 child is aware of the pupil's absence, a reasonable effort to notify, by
43 telephone, the parent or such other person shall be made by school
44 personnel or volunteers under the direction of school personnel. Any
45 person who, in good faith, gives or fails to give notice pursuant to
46 subdivision [(5)] (6) of this subsection shall be immune from any
47 liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or
48 imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any
49 judicial proceeding which results from such notice or failure to give
50 such notice.

51 (c) If the parent or other person having control of a child who is a
52 truant fails to attend [the] a meeting held pursuant to subdivision (1)
53 of subsection (b) of this section or if such parent or other person
54 otherwise fails to cooperate with the school in attempting to solve the

55 truancy problem, and school personnel have visited the home of such
56 child pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, such
57 policies and procedures shall require the superintendent of schools to
58 file for each such truant enrolled in the schools under his jurisdiction
59 (1) a written complaint with the Superior Court pursuant to section
60 46b-149, as amended, alleging the belief that the acts or omissions of
61 the child are such that his family is a family with service needs, and (2)
62 a report of educational neglect with the Department of Children and
63 Families based on truancy.

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

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

APP *Joint Favorable*

JUD *Joint Favorable*