



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 278

LCO No. 1391

01391_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING TRUANCY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-198a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section, "truant" means a child age five to
4 eighteen, inclusive, who is enrolled in a public or private school and
5 has four unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten
6 unexcused absences from school in any school year.

7 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall adopt and
8 implement policies and procedures concerning truants who are
9 enrolled in schools under the jurisdiction of such board of education.
10 Such policies and procedures shall include, but need not be limited to,
11 the following: (1) The holding of a meeting with the parent of each
12 child who is a truant, or other person having control of such child, and
13 appropriate school personnel to review and evaluate the reasons for
14 the child being a truant, provided such meeting shall be held not later
15 than ten school days after the child's fourth unexcused absence in a
16 month or tenth unexcused absence in a school year, (2) coordinating

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

42 (c) If the parent or other person having control of a child who is a
43 truant fails to attend the meeting held pursuant to subdivision (1) of
44 subsection (b) of this section or if such parent or other person
45 otherwise fails to cooperate with the school in attempting to solve the
46 truancy problem, such policies and procedures shall require the
47 superintendent of schools to file, not later than fifteen days after such
48 failure to attend such meeting or such failure to cooperate with the
49 school attempting to solve the truancy problem, for each such truant
50 enrolled in the schools under his jurisdiction a written complaint with

51 the Superior Court pursuant to section 46b-149 alleging the belief that
52 the acts or omissions of the child are such that his family is a family
53 with service needs.

54 (d) Nothing in subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section shall
55 preclude a local or regional board of education from adopting policies
56 and procedures pursuant to this section which exceed the
57 requirements of said subsections.

58 (e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any child
59 receiving equivalent instruction pursuant to section 10-184.

60 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) On or before July 1, 2011, the
61 State Board of Education shall (1) define "excused absence" and
62 "unexcused absence" for use by local and regional boards of education
63 for purposes of carrying out the provisions of section 10-198a of the
64 general statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) the criteria by which
65 local and regional boards of education are to measure, collect and
66 report on data concerning attendance in the school district pursuant to
67 the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-220 of the general statutes.

68 (b) On or before July 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the State
69 Board of Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
70 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the data received pursuant to
71 subsection (a) of this section and truancy programs implemented by
72 local and regional boards of education, pursuant to section 10-198a of
73 the general statutes, as amended by this act, to the Governor and the
74 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
75 of matters relating to education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	10-198a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require school districts making a referral to the court because of truancy problems to file such referral not later than fifteen days after a parent or person having control of a child who is truant fails to attend a meeting to discuss such truancy or otherwise fails to cooperate with the school attempting to solve such truancy problem; to require the State Board of Education to define "excused absence" and "unexcused absence" for uniformity in data collection and analysis in school district truancy problems; and to require the State Board of Education to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on truancy data and school district truancy programs.

[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.]