



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 278**

February Session, 2010

\* \_\_\_\_\_SB00278APP\_\_042610\_\_\_\_\_\*

**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 Section 10-198a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 thirty calendar days  
48 after such failure to attend such meeting or such failure to cooperate  
49 with the school attempting to solve the truancy problem, for each such  
50 truant enrolled in the schools under his jurisdiction a written  
51 complaint with the Superior Court pursuant to section 46b-149 alleging  
52 the belief that the acts or omissions of the child are such that his family  
53 is a family 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) establish the criteria  
 65 by which local and regional boards of education are to measure, collect  
 66 and report on data concerning attendance in the school district  
 67 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-220 of the  
 68 general statutes.

69 (b) On or before July 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, the State  
 70 Board of Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of  
 71 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the data received pursuant to  
 72 subsection (a) of this section and truancy programs implemented by  
 73 local and regional boards of education, pursuant to section 10-198a of  
 74 the general statutes, as amended by this act, to the Governor and the  
 75 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
 76 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

**ED**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**APP**          *Joint Favorable*