



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 4530

HB0535704530HDO

Offered by:

REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.

REP. MCCRORY, 7th Dist.

SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.

REP. MILLER P., 145th Dist.

REP. ACKERT, 8th Dist.

REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.

SEN. BOUCHER, 26th Dist.

SEN. HOLDER-WINFIELD, 10th
Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5357

File No. 404

Cal. No. 239

"AN ACT CONCERNING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) As used in this section
4 and sections 10-198b and 10-220 of the general statutes, as amended by
5 this act:

6 (1) "Chronically absent child" means a child who is enrolled in a
7 school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education
8 and whose total number of absences at any point during a school year
9 is equal to or greater than ten per cent of the total number of days that
10 such student has been enrolled at such school during such school year;

11 (2) "Absence" means an excused absence, unexcused absence and
12 disciplinary absence, as defined by the State Board of Education

13 pursuant to section 10-198b of the general statutes, as amended by this
14 act and an in-school suspension, as defined in section 10-233a of the
15 general statutes that is greater than or equal to one-half of a school
16 day;

17 (3) "District chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of
18 chronically absent children under the jurisdiction of a local or regional
19 board of education in the previous school year divided by the total
20 number of children under the jurisdiction of such board for such
21 school year; and

22 (4) "School chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of
23 chronically absent children for a school in the previous school year
24 divided by the total number of children enrolled in such school for
25 such school year.

26 (b) Each local and regional board of education that (1) has a district
27 chronic absenteeism rate of ten per cent or higher, or (2) has a school
28 under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism
29 rate of fifteen per cent or higher, shall establish a district school
30 attendance review team to address chronic absenteeism at the school.
31 The district school attendance review team may consist of school
32 administrators, guidance counselors, school social workers, teachers
33 and representatives from community-based programs who address
34 issues related to student attendance by providing programs and
35 services to truants, as defined in section 10-198a of the general statutes,
36 as amended by this act, and chronically absent children and their
37 families. The district school attendance review team shall be
38 responsible for reviewing the cases of truants and chronically absent
39 children, discussing school interventions and community referrals for
40 such truants and chronically absent children and making any
41 additional recommendations for such truants and chronically absent
42 children and their families. The school attendance review team shall
43 meet at least monthly.

44 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is

45 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
46 *1, 2014*):

47 (c) Annually, each local and regional board of education shall
48 submit to the Commissioner of Education a strategic school profile
49 report for each school under its jurisdiction and for the school district
50 as a whole. The superintendent of each local and regional school
51 district shall present the profile report at the next regularly scheduled
52 public meeting of the board of education after each November first.
53 The profile report shall provide information on measures of (1) student
54 needs, (2) school resources, including technological resources and
55 utilization of such resources and infrastructure, (3) student and school
56 performance, including [truancy] the number of truants, as defined in
57 section 10-198a, as amended by this act, and chronically absent
58 children, as defined in section 1 of this act, (4) the number of students
59 enrolled in an adult high school credit diploma program, pursuant to
60 section 10-69, operated by a local or regional board of education or a
61 regional educational service center, (5) equitable allocation of resources
62 among its schools, (6) reduction of racial, ethnic and economic
63 isolation, and (7) special education. For purposes of this subsection,
64 measures of special education include (A) special education
65 identification rates by disability, (B) rates at which special education
66 students are exempted from mastery testing pursuant to section 10-
67 14q, (C) expenditures for special education, including such
68 expenditures as a percentage of total expenditures, (D) achievement
69 data for special education students, (E) rates at which students
70 identified as requiring special education are no longer identified as
71 requiring special education, (F) the availability of supplemental
72 educational services for students lacking basic educational skills, (G)
73 the amount of special education student instructional time with
74 nondisabled peers, (H) the number of students placed out-of-district,
75 and (I) the actions taken by the school district to improve special
76 education programs, as indicated by analyses of the local data
77 provided in subparagraphs (A) to (H), inclusive, of this subdivision.
78 The superintendent shall include in the narrative portion of the report

79 information about parental involvement and if the district has taken
80 measures to improve parental involvement, including, but not limited
81 to, employment of methods to engage parents in the planning and
82 improvement of school programs and methods to increase support to
83 parents working at home with their children on learning activities. For
84 purposes of this subsection, measures of truancy include the type of
85 data that is required to be collected by the Department of Education
86 regarding attendance and unexcused absences in order for the
87 department to comply with federal reporting requirements and the
88 actions taken by the local or regional board of education to reduce
89 truancy in the school district. Such truancy data shall be considered a
90 public record for purposes of chapter 14.

91 Sec. 3. Section 10-198b of the general statutes is repealed and the
92 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

93 On or before July 1, 2012, the State Board of Education shall define
94 "excused absence", [and] "unexcused absence" and "disciplinary
95 absence" for use by local and regional boards of education for the
96 [purpose] purposes of carrying out the provisions of section 10-198a, as
97 amended by this act, [and for the purpose of] reporting truancy,
98 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-220, as amended by this act,
99 and calculating the district chronic absenteeism rate and the school
100 chronic absenteeism rate, pursuant to section 1 of this act.

101 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-198a of the general statutes is
102 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
103 *1, 2014*):

104 (a) For purposes of this section, section 10-220, as amended by this
105 act, and section 1 of this act, "truant" means a child age five to eighteen,
106 inclusive, who is enrolled in a public or private school and has four
107 unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten unexcused
108 absences from school in any school year."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-220(c)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-198b
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-198a(a)