

Chapter 355

(House Bill 207)

AN ACT concerning

Education – ~~Chronically Absent~~ Truant Students

FOR the purpose of requiring county boards of education to develop a system of intervention for ~~chronically absent~~ truant students; defining ~~certain terms a certain term; providing that this Act does not prohibit a county board from taking certain actions;~~ and generally relating to ~~chronically absent~~ truant students.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–302.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7–302.2.

(A) ~~(1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:~~

~~(2) “CHRONICALLY, “CHRONICALLY ABSENT TRUANT STUDENT” MEANS A STUDENT WHO:~~

~~(1) WHO IS UNLAWFULLY UNLAWFULLY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR MORE THAN 10% OF THE SCHOOL DAYS IN ANY GIVEN QUARTER, SEMESTER, OR ACADEMIC YEAR.~~

~~(3) “UNLAWFUL ABSENCE” HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN MORE THAN:~~

~~(I) 8 DAYS IN ANY QUARTER;~~

~~(II) 15 DAYS IN ANY SEMESTER; OR~~

(III) 20 DAYS IN A SCHOOL YEAR; AND

(2) WHOSE ABSENCES FOR PURPOSES OF ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ARE UNLAWFUL ABSENCES WITHIN THE MEANING OF COMAR 13A.08.01.03 AND 13A.08.01.04 AS DEFINED BY REGULATION.

(B) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF ACTIVE INTERVENTION FOR ~~STUDENTS WHO ARE CHRONICALLY ABSENT~~ TRUANT FROM SCHOOL STUDENTS.

(C) ~~EACH COUNTY BOARD'S SYSTEM OF INTERVENTION FOR CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENTS SHALL INCLUDE:~~

(1) ~~A ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS BY QUALIFIED SCHOOL SYSTEM PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY WHAT FACTORS ARE LEADING TO A STUDENT'S ABSENCES AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS THOSE FACTORS; AND~~

(2) ~~IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY SCHOOL SYSTEM PERSONNEL, REFERRALS TO SOCIAL SERVICE OR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF A STUDENT'S ABSENCES.~~

(D) (1) ~~EACH COUNTY BOARD'S SYSTEM OF INTERVENTION FOR CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENTS SHALL REQUIRE INTERACTION BETWEEN SCHOOL SYSTEM PERSONNEL, THE STUDENT, AND THE STUDENT'S PARENTS OR GUARDIAN TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR ATTENDANCE AND STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING REGULAR ATTENDANCE.~~

(2) ~~THIS INTERACTION MAY INCLUDE COUNSELING OR PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES.~~

(E) (C) (1) ANY EACH CHRONICALLY ABSENT TRUANT STUDENT ATTENDING KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE WHO IS UNLAWFULLY ABSENT MORE THAN 10% OF THE SCHOOL DAYS IN ANY GIVEN QUARTER, SEMESTER, OR ACADEMIC YEAR SHALL IMMEDIATELY BE REFERRED TO THE COUNTY BOARD'S SYSTEM OF ACTIVE INTERVENTION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE CHRONICALLY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(2) ~~THE COUNTY BOARD MAY INTERVENE AT A LOWER LEVEL OF ABSENCES.~~

(2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A COUNTY BOARD FROM INTERVENING IN THE CASE OF A STUDENT WHO IS FREQUENTLY ABSENT FROM

SCHOOL ~~BUT WHO IS NOT A CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENT~~ FOR BOTH LAWFUL AND UNLAWFUL PURPOSES, BUT IS NOT A TRUANT STUDENT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2013.