

HOUSE BILL 363

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4lr0317

By: **Delegate Glenn**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Truant Students – System of Active Intervention – Requirements

FOR the purpose of requiring the system of active intervention for certain truant students developed by each county board of education to include an Individualized Reengagement Plan for each truant student, coordination and collaboration with State and municipal agencies to deliver certain services, creation of a certain database to track truant students, and a specific plan for each public school to reengage truant students; requiring the Individualized Reengagement Plan to be developed by certain individuals using a certain process and requiring the Plan to be customized to the student; defining certain terms; and generally relating to requirements for a system of active intervention for truant students.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–302.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 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.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) “INDIVIDUALIZED REENGAGEMENT PLAN” MEANS A DOCUMENT THAT CONTAINS AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN OF ACTION TO REENGAGE A TRUANT STUDENT WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY DISENGAGED SOCIALLY AND ACADEMICALLY.

(3) “TRUANCY ACTION PLANNING” MEANS A SYSTEMIC PROCESS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, CASE MANAGEMENT, AND DATA ANALYSIS THAT IS USED TO DEVELOP AN INDIVIDUALIZED REENGAGEMENT PLAN TO REENGAGE A TRUANT STUDENT.

(4) [“truant] “TRUANT student” means a student:

[(1)] (I) Who is unlawfully absent from school for more than:

[(i)] 1. 8 days in any quarter;

[(ii)] 2. 15 days in any semester; or

[(iii)] 3. 20 days in a school year; and

[(2)] (II) Whose absences for purposes of item [(1)] (I) of this [subsection] PARAGRAPH are unlawful absences as defined by regulation.

(b) (1) Each county board shall develop a system of active intervention for truant students, WHICH SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(2) FOR TRUANT STUDENTS WHO ARE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD OR WHO ARE NOT ACCUMULATING SUFFICIENT CREDITS TO REASONABLY COMPLETE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BEFORE THE AGE OF 21, THE SYSTEM OF ACTIVE INTERVENTION SHALL INCLUDE:

(i) A REQUIREMENT FOR AN INDIVIDUALIZED REENGAGEMENT PLAN TO BE DEVELOPED FOR EACH TRUANT STUDENT THROUGH TRUANCY ACTION PLANNING;

(ii) COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH STATE AND MUNICIPAL AGENCIES TO DELIVER SERVICES TO TRUANT STUDENTS;

(iii) THE CREATION OF A DATABASE IN EACH COUNTY THAT WILL BE USED TO IDENTIFY AND TRACK EACH TRUANT STUDENT, INCLUDING ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED, PROGRESS TOWARD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OR GED, AND OTHER RELEVANT STUDENT OUTCOMES; AND

(IV) A REQUIREMENT FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD TO PREPARE A SCHOOL-SPECIFIC PLAN TO REENGAGE TRUANT STUDENTS.

(3) THE INDIVIDUALIZED REENGAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE:

(I) DEVELOPED BY A GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS EMPLOYED BY THE COUNTY BOARD SUCH AS TEACHERS, GUIDANCE COUNSELORS, FAMILY SERVICES COORDINATORS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS;

(II) DEVELOPED USING A SYSTEMIC PROCESS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, CASE MANAGEMENT, AND DATA ANALYSIS; AND

(III) CUSTOMIZED TO THE STUDENT TO ASSIST IN THE STUDENT'S REENGAGEMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING:

1. MEASUREABLE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE STUDENT;

2. STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND THE STUDENT;

3. A LIST OF ANY SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS, RESOURCES, AND SERVICES FOR THE STUDENT; AND

4. A PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF THE PLAN AFTER A TRIAL PERIOD OF 4 TO 6 WEEKS.

(c) (1) Each truant student attending kindergarten through 12th grade shall immediately be referred to the county board's system of active intervention developed under this section.

(2) This section does not prohibit a county board from intervening in the case of a student who is frequently absent from school 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 July 1, 2014.