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**By: Delegates Dembrow, Preis, and Genn**  
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 23, 1996

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Truancy - ~~Child in Need of Supervision Petition~~ Investigation and Reporting**  
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain school officials, upon receipt of a report from  
5 certain other school officials that a student has been ~~absent more than a certain~~  
6 ~~number of times in 1 month, habitually truant without lawful excuse,~~ to initiate a  
7 certain investigation into the cause of the child's truancy ~~or to file a complaint with~~  
8 ~~the Department of Juvenile Justice alleging that the student is a child in need of~~  
9 ~~supervision; authorizing the officials to provide certain services and to notify the~~  
10 Department of Juvenile Justice that the student has been habitually truant;  
11 requiring certain school officials to provide to a local education agency certain  
12 information on certain students described as habitually truant; and generally  
13 relating to education and truancy.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article - Education  
16 Section 7-302 and 7-303(e)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Education**

22 7-302.

23 (A) The principal or head teacher of each public or private school in this State  
24 shall report immediately to the county superintendent, the supervisor of pupil personnel,

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1 or any other official designated by the county superintendent the name of each child  
2 enrolled in his school who has been absent or irregular in attendance, without lawful  
3 excuse, or who shows evidence of maladjustment, so that the causes may be studied and  
4 solutions worked out.

5 (B) UPON RECEIPT OF A REPORT FROM A PRINCIPAL OR HEAD TEACHER OF A  
6 PUBLIC ~~OR PRIVATE~~ SCHOOL THAT A STUDENT HAS BEEN ~~ABSENT 10 OR MORE DAYS~~  
7 ~~IN 1 MONTH WITHOUT A MEDICAL~~ HABITUALLY TRUANT WITHOUT LAWFUL  
8 EXCUSE, THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, SUPERVISOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL, OR  
9 THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE ~~SHALL~~:

10 (1) SHALL INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSE OF THE  
11 CHILD'S TRUANCY, ~~INCLUDING AND MAY PROVIDE~~ FAMILY COUNSELING AND  
12 INTERVENTION OF ~~OTHER~~ APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES; ~~OR~~  
13 AND

14 (2) ~~FILE A COMPLAINT WITH~~ FOLLOWING THE INVESTIGATION OR  
15 INTERVENTION, MAY NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE ~~ALLEGING~~  
16 THAT THE STUDENT ~~IS A CHILD IN NEED OF SUPERVISION~~ HAS BEEN HABITUALLY  
17 TRUANT, WITHOUT LAWFUL EXCUSE.

18 (C) THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, THE SUPERVISOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL,  
19 OR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE SHALL PROVIDE TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION  
20 AGENCY FOR INCLUSION IN THE REPORT OF THE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY  
21 UNDER § 7-303(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF  
22 STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS BEING HABITUALLY TRUANT.

23 7-303.

24 (e) At the end of each fiscal year, each participating local education agency shall  
25 submit a written statement to the State Department of Education [describing] THAT  
26 DESCRIBES:

27 (1) [the] THE assessment, the educational problems determined, the  
28 overall program developed with goals and procedures, and a yearly evaluation of the  
29 success of the program AS PROVIDED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION; AND

30 (2) INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS  
31 IDENTIFIED AS BEING HABITUALLY TRUANT AS PROVIDED UNDER THE PROVISIONS  
32 OF § 7-302(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 October 1, 1996.

