
By: Delegates Dembrow, Genn, and Preis

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1997

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Truancy - Investigation and Reporting Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain individuals, upon receipt of a report from certain
4 school officials that a student has been habitually truant without lawful excuse, to
5 initiate an investigation into the cause of the student's truancy; authorizing certain
6 individuals to provide certain services and to notify the Department of Juvenile
7 Justice that the student has been habitually truant; requiring certain school officials
8 to provide to a local education agency certain information on certain students
9 described as habitually truant; and generally relating to the establishment of
10 investigation and reporting requirements concerning truancy.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

12 Article - Education
13 Section 7-302 and 7-304(e)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1997 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article - Education**

19 7-302.

20 (A) The principal or head teacher of each public or private school in this State
21 shall report immediately to the county superintendent, the supervisor of pupil personnel,
22 or any other official designated by the county superintendent the name of each child
23 enrolled in his school who has been absent or irregular in attendance, without lawful
24 excuse, or who shows evidence of maladjustment, so that the causes may be studied and
25 solutions worked out.

26 (B) ON RECEIPT OF A REPORT FROM A PRINCIPAL OR HEAD TEACHER OF A
27 PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT A STUDENT HAS BEEN HABITUALLY TRUANT WITHOUT
28 LAWFUL EXCUSE, THE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM:

29 (1) SHALL INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSE OF THE
30 CHILD'S TRUANCY;

2

1 (2) MAY PROVIDE COUNSELING REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF
2 SOCIAL, HEALTH, AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES; AND

3 (3) FOLLOWING THE INVESTIGATION OR INTERVENTION, MAY NOTIFY
4 THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE THAT THE STUDENT HAS BEEN
5 HABITUALLY TRUANT, WITHOUT LAWFUL EXCUSE.

6 (C) THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE, OR
7 THE SUPERVISOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SHALL PROVIDE TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION
8 AGENCY FOR INCLUSION IN THE REPORT OF THE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY
9 UNDER § 7-304(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF
10 STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS BEING HABITUALLY TRUANT.

11 7-304.

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

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

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

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 1997.