HOUSE BILL 271

Unofficial Copy HB 303/96 - W&M 2000 Regular Session 0lr0510

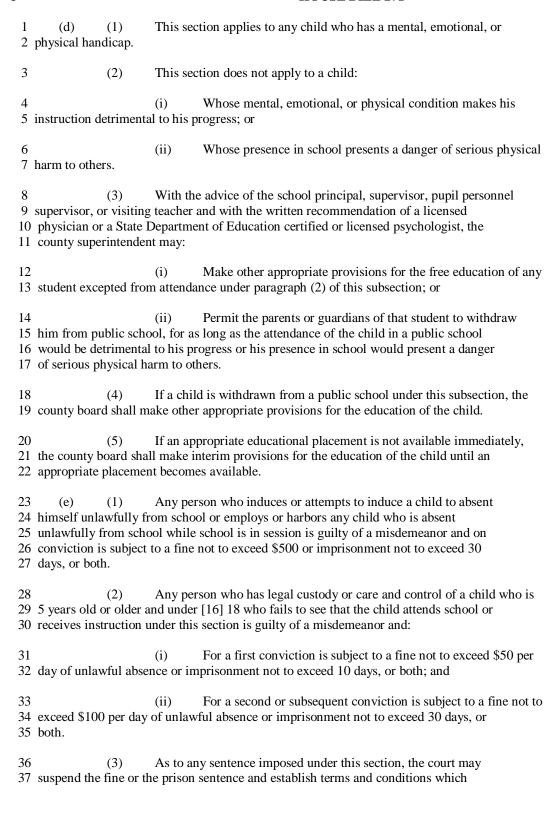
By: Delegates Gladden, Phillips, Grosfeld, D. Davis, and Montague Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2000 Assigned to: Ways and Means A BILL ENTITLED 1 AN ACT concerning 2 **Education - Compulsory School Attendance - Age Limits** 3 FOR the purpose of raising the age of compulsory school attendance in the public schools in the State; making an exception for a minor who has obtained a high 4 5 school diploma or certificate; raising the age at which an individual may receive 6 a high school diploma by examination; and generally relating to the age of compulsory school attendance. 7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, 8 Article - Education 10 Section 7-206 and 7-301 Annotated Code of Maryland 11 (1999 Replacement Volume) 12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 13 14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: 15 **Article - Education**

16 7-206.

- 17 An individual may obtain a high school diploma by examination as (a) 18 provided in this section if he:
- 19 Has not obtained a high school certificate or diploma; (1)
- 20 Has resided in this State or on a federal reservation in this State for
- 21 at least 3 months, except that the State Board may waive this residence requirement
- 22 if it considers the waiver justified;
- 23 (3)Is [16] 18 years old or older; and
- 24 Has withdrawn from a regular full-time public or private school (4)
- 25 program for at least 3 months.

- 1 (b) The State Board shall examine individuals for a high school diploma at 2 least twice each year at places throughout this State that are reasonably convenient 3 for the applicants.
- 4 (c) The examination shall:
- 5 (1) Be offered in appropriate high school subject areas; and
- 6 (2) Be of a comprehensive nature as determined by the State Board.
- 7 (d) An individual who fails an examination may take retests.
- 8 (e) A member of the armed forces may earn the Maryland high school diploma
- 9 by taking the examinations furnished by the United States Armed Forces Institute
- 10 and given by the appropriate service officer.
- 11 (f) The diploma shall be awarded in accordance with the rules and regulations 12 adopted by the State Board.
- 13 7-301.
- 14 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each child who resides
- 15 in this State and is 5 years old or older and under [16] 18 shall attend a public school
- 16 regularly during the entire school year unless the child is otherwise receiving regular,
- 17 thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public
- 18 schools to children of the same age.
- 19 (2) In accordance with regulations of the State Board of Education, a
- 20 child who resides in this State and is 5 years old may be exempted from mandatory
- 21 school attendance for 1 year if the child's parent or guardian files a written request
- 22 with the local school system asking that the child's attendance be delayed due to the
- 23 child's level of maturity.
- 24 (3) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section or in regulations of
- 25 the State Board of Education, each child who resides in this State shall attend a
- 26 kindergarten program regularly during the school year prior to entering the first
- 27 grade unless the child is otherwise receiving regular, thorough instruction in the
- 28 skills and studies usually taught in a kindergarten program of a public school.
- 29 (4) A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS WHO HAS OBTAINED A HIGH
- 30 SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA IS NOT SUBJECT TO THIS SUBSECTION.
- 31 (b) A county superintendent, school principal, or an individual authorized by
- 32 the county superintendent or principal may excuse a student for a lawful absence.
- 33 (c) Each person who has legal custody or care and control of a child who is 5
- 34 years old or older and under 16 shall see that the child attends school or receives
- 35 instruction as required by this section.

HOUSE BILL 271



HOUSE BILL 271

- 1 would promote the child's attendance. The suspension authority provided for in this
- 2 subsection is in addition to and not in limitation of the suspension authority under
- 3 Article 27, § 641A of the Code.
- 4 (f) A child may be exempted from attending kindergarten if a parent or
- 5 guardian of the child files a written request with the local school system and verifies
- 6 that the child is enrolled:
- 7 (1) Full time in a licensed child care center;
- 8 (2) Full time in a registered family day care home; or
- 9 Part time in a Head Start 5 year old program.
- 10 (g) Kindergarten programs are not subject to the requirements of § 7-103(a) of 11 this title relating to minimum days or hours of operation.
- 12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 13 July 1, 2000.