

## Chapter 378

(House Bill 1141)

AN ACT concerning

~~Juvenile Court – Truancy Court – Petition~~  
**Juvenile Law – Truancy Reduction Pilot Program – Filing of Petition**

FOR the purpose of repealing a certain requirement that a certain criminal charge against a certain person must be filed and dismissed or stetted before ~~filing an~~ authorized school official may file, if a child is under a certain age, a truancy petition in certain judicial circuits that have established Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs; ~~repealing certain requirements relating to criminal charges being filed against a certain person with legal custody of a child in certain jurisdictions that have established a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program; and generally relating to a petition filed in truancy court~~ a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 3–8C–04  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Education  
Section 7–301(e)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing  
Article – Education  
Section 7–301(e–1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)~~

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

**Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

3–8C–04.

[(a)] An authorized school official may file with the juvenile court a petition alleging a violation of this subtitle.

[(b)] If a child is under the age of 12 years, an authorized school official may file a petition under this subtitle only if:

(1) A criminal charge was filed under § 7-301 of the Education Article against the person with legal custody or care and control of the child at the time of the alleged violation; and

(2) The court dismissed or stетted the charge in accordance with § 7-301(e-1) of the Education Article.]

### ~~Article—Education~~

#### ~~7-301.~~

~~(c) (1) Any person who induces or attempts to induce a child to absent himself unlawfully from school or employs or harbors any child who is absent unlawfully from school while school is in session is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not to exceed \$500 or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both.~~

~~(2) Any person who has legal custody or care and control of a child who is 5 years old or older and under 16 who fails to see that the child attends school or receives instruction under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and:~~

~~(i) For a first conviction is subject to a fine not to exceed \$50 per day of unlawful absence or imprisonment not to exceed 10 days, or both; and~~

~~(ii) For a second or subsequent conviction is subject to a fine not to exceed \$100 per day of unlawful absence or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both.~~

~~(3) As to any sentence imposed under this section, the court may suspend the fine or the prison sentence and establish terms and conditions which would promote the child's attendance. The suspension authority provided for in this subsection is in addition to and not in limitation of the suspension authority under § 6-221 of the Criminal Procedure Article.~~

~~[(c-1) (1) This subsection applies only:~~

~~(i) In a county in which the circuit administrative judge has established a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program under § 3-8C-02 of the Courts Article; and~~

~~(ii) To the extent that funds are provided in an annual State budget for a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program.~~

~~(2) A charge under this section may be filed in the juvenile court and assigned to a truancy docket for disposition under Title 3, Subtitle 8C of the Courts Article.~~

~~(3) (i) For a person with legal custody or care and control of a child at the time of an alleged violation of this section, it is an affirmative defense to a charge under this section that the person made reasonable and substantial efforts to see that the child attended school as required by law but was unable to cause the child to attend school.~~

~~(ii) If the court finds the affirmative defense is valid, the court shall dismiss the charge under this section against the defendant.~~

~~(4) The court may condition marking a charge under this section set on participation of the defendant in the appropriate Truancy Reduction Pilot Program under Title 3, Subtitle 8C of the Courts Article.]~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2011.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2011.