

HOUSE BILL 207

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3lr0690

By: **Delegates Luedtke, Ivey, Kaiser, Myers, and A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2013

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Chronically Absent Students**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring county boards of education to develop a system of
4 intervention for chronically absent students; defining certain terms; and
5 generally relating to chronically absent students.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – Education

8 Section 7–302.2

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Education**

14 **7–302.2.**

15 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
16 MEANINGS INDICATED.

17 (2) “CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENT” MEANS A STUDENT WHO IS
18 UNLAWFULLY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR MORE THAN 10% OF THE SCHOOL
19 DAYS IN ANY GIVEN QUARTER, SEMESTER, OR ACADEMIC YEAR.

20 (3) “UNLAWFUL ABSENCE” HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
21 COMAR 13A.08.01.03 AND 13A.08.01.04.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF ACTIVE**
2 **INTERVENTION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE CHRONICALLY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL.**

3 **(C) EACH COUNTY BOARD'S SYSTEM OF INTERVENTION FOR**
4 **CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENTS SHALL INCLUDE:**

5 **(1) A ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS BY QUALIFIED SCHOOL SYSTEM**
6 **PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY WHAT FACTORS ARE LEADING TO A STUDENT'S**
7 **ABSENCES AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS THOSE FACTORS; AND**

8 **(2) IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY SCHOOL SYSTEM PERSONNEL,**
9 **REFERRALS TO SOCIAL SERVICE OR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WHO MIGHT BE**
10 **ABLE TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF A STUDENT'S ABSENCES.**

11 **(D) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD'S SYSTEM OF INTERVENTION FOR**
12 **CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENTS SHALL REQUIRE INTERACTION BETWEEN**
13 **SCHOOL SYSTEM PERSONNEL, THE STUDENT, AND THE STUDENT'S PARENTS OR**
14 **GUARDIAN TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR ATTENDANCE AND**
15 **STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING REGULAR ATTENDANCE.**

16 **(2) THIS INTERACTION MAY INCLUDE COUNSELING OR PARENT**
17 **EDUCATION CLASSES.**

18 **(E) (1) ANY STUDENT ATTENDING KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH**
19 **GRADE WHO IS UNLAWFULLY ABSENT MORE THAN 10% OF THE SCHOOL DAYS IN**
20 **ANY GIVEN QUARTER, SEMESTER, OR ACADEMIC YEAR SHALL IMMEDIATELY BE**
21 **REFERRED TO THE COUNTY BOARD'S SYSTEM OF ACTIVE INTERVENTION FOR**
22 **STUDENTS WHO ARE CHRONICALLY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL.**

23 **(2) THE COUNTY BOARD MAY INTERVENE AT A LOWER LEVEL OF**
24 **ABSENCES.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2013.