

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **80th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1995**
4 **By: Senator Walters**

A Bill

ACT 572 OF 1995
SENATE BILL 525

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 6-18-222 TO REQUIRE SCHOOL
9 DISTRICTS TO NOTIFY PARENTS WHEN THEIR CHILDREN ACCUMULATE
10 EXCESSIVE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

13 "TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO NOTIFY
14 PARENTS WHEN THEIR CHILDREN ACCUMULATE
15 EXCESSIVE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES."

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-18-222(a)(4) and (5) is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 "(4) The student's parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall
22 be notified when the student has accumulated excessive unexcused absences
23 equal to one-half (1/2) the total number of absences permitted under the
24 school district's or the State Board of Vocational Education's student
25 attendance policy per semester. Notice shall be by telephonic contact with the
26 student's parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis by the end of the
27 school day in which such absence occurred or by regular mail with a return
28 address on the envelope sent no later than the following school day.

29 (5) Whenever a student exceeds the number of excessive unexcused absences
30 provided for in the district's or the State Board of Vocational Education's
31 student attendance policy, the school district or the adult education program
32 shall notify the prosecuting authority, and the student's parents, guardians,
33 or persons in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty in such an
34 amount as a court of competent jurisdiction, presiding in the presence of a
35 representative of the school district, may prescribe, but not to exceed five
36 hundred dollars (\$500) plus costs of court and any reasonable fees assessed by

1 the court. The penalty shall be forwarded by the court to the school or the
2 adult education program attended by the student."

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4 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
5 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
6 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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8 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
9 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
10 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
11 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
12 act are declared to be severable.

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14 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
15 hereby repealed.

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17 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General
18 Assembly that Arkansas Code 6-18-222 was intended to address excessive
19 unexcused absences of public school students; that as written it applies to
20 excessive absences; that the present law is unduly burdensome on school
21 districts; and that this act relieves the burden and should go into effect as
22 soon as possible in order to lighten the burden. Therefore, an emergency is
23 hereby declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the
24 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall be in full force
25 and effect from and after its passage and approval.

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APPROVED: 3-9-95

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