

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 82nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1999  
4

# A Bill

Act 1579 of 1999  
SENATE BILL 913

5 By: Senator Mahony  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO CREATE COMMUNITY TRUANCY BOARDS; AND FOR  
9 OTHER PURPOSES."  
10

### Subtitle

11 "TO CREATE COMMUNITY TRUANCY BOARDS."  
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16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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18 SECTION 1. For purposes of this Act "community truancy board" means a  
19 board composed of members of the local community in which the child attends  
20 school.  
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22 SECTION 2. (a) The local school district boards of directors may  
23 create a community truancy board or may use other boards that exist or are  
24 created, such as diversion boards. However, a diversion or other existing  
25 board must agree before it is used as a truancy board.

26 (b) Members of the board shall be selected from representatives of the  
27 community.

28 (c) Duties of a community truancy board shall include, but not be  
29 limited to, recommending methods for improving school attendance such as  
30 assisting the parent or the child to obtain supplementary services that might  
31 eliminate or ameliorate the causes for the absences or suggesting to the  
32 school district that the child enroll in another school, an alternative  
33 education program, an education center, a skill center, a dropout prevention  
34 program, or another public or private educational program.  
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36 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 6-18-222(a)(4) and (5) pertaining to truancy

1 are amended to read as follows:

2 "(4) The student's parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis and  
 3 the Community Truancy Board shall be notified when the student has accumulated  
 4 excessive unexcused absences equal to one-half (1/2) the total number of  
 5 absences permitted under the school district's or the State Board of  
 6 Vocational Education's student attendance policy per semester. Notice shall be  
 7 by telephonic contact with the student's parents, guardians, or persons in  
 8 loco parentis by the end of the school day in which such absence occurred or  
 9 by regular mail with a return address on the envelope sent no later than the  
 10 following school day. Notice to the Community Truancy Board shall be by  
 11 letter to the chairman of the Community Truancy Board.

12 (A) The Community Truancy Board shall schedule a conference with  
 13 the parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis to establish a plan to  
 14 take steps to eliminate or reduce the student's unexcused absences.

15 (B) If the student's parents, guardians, or persons in loco  
 16 parentis do not attend the scheduled conference, the conference may be  
 17 conducted with the student and a school official. However, the parent,  
 18 guardian or person in loco parentis shall be notified of the steps to be taken  
 19 to eliminate or reduce the child's absence.

20 (5) Whenever a student exceeds the number of excessive unexcused  
 21 absences provided for in the district's or the State Board of Vocational  
 22 Education's student attendance policy, the school district or the adult  
 23 education program shall notify the prosecuting authority and the Community  
 24 Truancy Board, and the student's parents, guardians, or persons in loco  
 25 parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty in such an amount as a juvenile  
 26 court or other court of competent jurisdiction, as authorized under  
 27 subdivision (6)(A) of this subsection, may prescribe, but not to exceed five  
 28 hundred dollars (\$500) plus costs of court and any reasonable fees assessed by  
 29 the court. The penalty shall be forwarded by the court to the school or the  
 30 adult education program attended by the student."

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32 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
 33 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
 34 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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36 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to

1 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
2 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
3 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
4 act are declared to be severable.

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6 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
7 hereby repealed.

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10 APPROVED: 4/15/1999  
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