

Hall of the House of Representatives
88th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2011
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1995

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING EXCESSIVE
STUDENT ABSENCES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1995

Amend House Bill No. 1995 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete all language after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-209 is amended to read as follows:
6-18-209. Adoption of student attendance policies – Effect of

excessive absences.

(a) The board of directors of each school district in this state shall adopt student attendance policies.

(b) Each school district ~~shall~~, as a part of its six-year educational plan, shall develop strategies for promoting maximum student attendance, including, but not limited to, the use of alternative classrooms and in-school suspensions in lieu of suspension from school.

(c) A student attendance policy may include excessive ~~unexcused~~ absences as a mandatory basis for denial of promotion or graduation.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-222(a)(4) and (5), concerning the penalty for excessive absences, is amended to read as follows:

(4)(A) A student's parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis, and the community truancy board shall be notified when the student has accumulated excessive ~~unexcused~~ absences equal to one-half (½) the total number of absences permitted per semester under the school district's or the board's student attendance policy. Notice shall be by telephonic contact with the student's parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis by the end of the school day in which the absence occurred or by regular mail with a return address on the envelope sent no later than the following school day. Notice to the community truancy board shall be by letter to the chair of the community truancy board.

(B) The community truancy board shall schedule a conference with the parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis to establish a plan to take steps to eliminate or reduce the student's ~~unexcused~~ absences.

(C) If the student's parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis do not attend the scheduled conference, the conference may be



conducted with the student and a school official. However, the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis shall be notified of the steps to be taken to eliminate or reduce the child's ~~absence~~ absences.

(5)(A) ~~Whenever~~ When a student exceeds the number of excessive ~~unexcused~~ absences provided for in the district's or the board's student attendance policy, the school district or the adult education program shall notify the prosecuting authority and the community truancy board, and the student's parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty through a family in need of services action in circuit court, as authorized under subdivision (a)(6)(A) of this section, but not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) plus costs of court and any reasonable fees assessed by the court.

(B) The penalty shall be forwarded by the court to the school or the adult education program attended by the student."

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative McLean
SAG/KFW - 03/14/11 11:14
SAG266

Chief Clerk