

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. 2 to House Bill No. 1995

Amend House Bill No. 1995 as engrossed, H3/15/11 (version: 3/15/2011 01:39:10 PM)

Page 1, delete lines 33-36 and substitute the following:

"SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-220(a)(4), concerning excused absences for participation in FFA, FHA, and 4-H programs, is amended to read as follows:

(4) One method of encouraging participation in such programs is to ~~excuse the~~ grant additional absences ~~of students from regular classes when the students are participating~~ to students who participate in officially sanctioned activities of those organizations.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-220(c), concerning excused absences for participation in FFA, FHA, and 4-H programs, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Any school district that ~~excuses~~ grants additional absences of FFA member students who attend officially sanctioned FFA activities shall afford equal treatment to FHA and 4-H member students who attend the same or similar officially sanctioned activities.

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

(2) The State Board of ~~Workforce Education and Career Opportunities~~ Career Education shall adopt a student attendance policy for sixteen-year-olds and seventeen-year-olds enrolled in an adult education program. The policy shall require a minimum attendance of ten (10) hours per week to remain in the program.

(3) A copy of the school district's student attendance policy or the ~~board's~~ State Board of Career Education's student attendance policy for sixteen-year-olds and seventeen-year-olds enrolled in adult education shall be provided to the ~~students' parents, guardians, or persons~~ parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis of each student enrolled in an adult education program at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment, whichever event first occurs.



(4)(A)(i) A student's parents, guardians, or persons parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis and the community truancy board, if the community truancy board has been created, 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 State Board of Career Education's student attendance policy.

(ii) Notice shall be by telephonic contact with the student's parents, guardians, or persons parent, guardian, or person 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.

(iii) Notice to the community truancy board, if the community truancy board has been created, shall be by letter to the chair of the community truancy board.

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

(C) If the community truancy board has scheduled a conference and the student's parents, guardians, or persons parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis de does 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 student's absences.

(D)(i) Before a student accumulates the maximum number of absences allowed in a school district's student attendance policy, the student or the student's parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis may petition the school administration or school district administration for special arrangements to address the student's absences.

(ii) If special arrangements are granted by the school administration or the school district administration, the arrangements will be formalized into a written agreement to include the conditions of the agreement and the consequences for failing to fulfill the requirements of the agreement.

(iii) The agreement shall be signed by the:
(a) Designee of the school administration or of the school district administration;
(b) Student's parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis; and
(c) Student.

(5)(A) ~~Whenever~~ When a student exceeds the number of excessive unexcused absences provided for in the district's or the board's State Board of Career Education's student attendance policy, or when a student has violated the conditions of an agreement granting special arrangements under subdivision (a)(4)(D) of this section, the school district or the adult education program shall notify the prosecuting authority and the community truancy board, if a community truancy board has been created, and the student's parents, guardians, or persons parent, guardian, or person 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.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-27-113 is amended to read as follows:
6-27-113. Absence due to military deployment.

A student shall be granted additional ~~excused~~ absences at the discretion of the local educational agency superintendent to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian if the parent or legal guardian is a member of the uniformed services and has:

- (1) Been called to active duty or is on leave from active duty;
- or
- (2) Returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 7-4-116(c)(1)(A), concerning the election poll workers program for high school students, is amended to read as follows:

(A) Be ~~excused~~ granted an additional absence from school while working as an election page;

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 7-4-116(d)(1)(D), concerning the election poll workers program for high school students, is amended to read as follows:

(D) Be ~~excused~~ granted an additional absence from school while working as an election official."

AND

Page 2, delete lines 1-28

The Amendment was read
By: Representative McLean
CLR/CLR - 03/22/11 04:02
CLR294

Chief Clerk