

ARKANSAS SENATE
89th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2013
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 996

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

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 996

Amend Senate Bill No. 996 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete everything after the enacting clause and substitute:

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

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

(b) Each school district, 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. The catchline of Arkansas Code § 6-18-222 is amended to read as follows:

6-18-222. Penalty for ~~excessive~~ unexcused absences – Revocation of driving privilege.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-222(a)(1), concerning excessive absences from school, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A)(i) The board of directors of each school district in this state shall adopt a student attendance policy, as provided for in § 6-18-209, which shall include a certain number of ~~excessive~~ unexcused absences that may be used as a basis for denial of course credit, promotion, or graduation.

(ii) However, ~~excessive~~ unexcused absences shall not be a basis for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

(B) The legislative intent is that a student having ~~excessive~~ unexcused absences because of illness, accident, or other unavoidable reasons should be given assistance in obtaining credit for the courses.



SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-18-222(a)(4)(A)(i), concerning excessive absences from school, is amended to read as follows:

(4)(A)(i) A student's 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 ($\frac{1}{2}$) the total number of absences permitted per semester under the school district's or the State Board of Career Education's student attendance policy.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-18-222(a)(5)(A), concerning excessive absences from school, is amended to read as follows:

(5)(A) When a student exceeds the number of ~~excessive~~ unexcused absences provided for in the district's or the 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 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."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator J. Key

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Secretary