

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

A Bill

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
26 the student's parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis by the end of
27 the school day in which such absence occurred or by regular mail with a
28 return address on the envelope sent no later than the following school day.

29 (5) Whenever a student exceeds the number of excessive unexcused
30 absences provided for in the district's or the State Board of Vocational
31 Education's student attendance policy, the school district or the adult
32 education program shall notify the prosecuting authority, and the student's
33 parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil
34 penalty in such an amount as a court of competent jurisdiction, presiding in
35 the presence of a representative of the school district, may prescribe, but

1 not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) plus costs of court and any
2 reasonable fees assessed by the court. The penalty shall be forwarded by the
3 court to the school or the adult education program attended by the student."
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5 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent
6 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas
7 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.
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9 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
10 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
11 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
12 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
13 act are declared to be severable.
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15 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
16 hereby repealed.
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18 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the
19 General Assembly that Arkansas Code 6-18-222 was intended to address
20 excessive unexcused absences of public school students; that as written it
21 applies to excessive absences; that the present law is unduly burdensome on
22 school districts; and that this act relieves the burden and should go into
23 effect as soon as possible in order to lighten the burden. Therefore, an
24 emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this act being immediately
25 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
26 be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.
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