

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 250

5 By: Senator A. Clark  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL  
9 NEGLECT; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING REPORTS OF  
10 EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT MADE TO THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE;  
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
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## Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL  
15 NEGLECT; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING  
16 REPORTS OF EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT MADE TO  
17 THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-27-303(36)(A)(ix), concerning the  
24 definition of "neglect" and other definitions applicable to the Arkansas  
25 Juvenile Code of 1989, is amended to read as follows:

26 (ix)(a) Failure to ensure a child between six (6)  
27 years of age and seventeen (17) years of age is enrolled in school or is  
28 being legally home-schooled; or

29 (b) As a result of ~~the acts or omissions~~ an  
30 act or omission by the ~~juvenile's~~ parent, custodian, or guardian of a child,  
31 the ~~juvenile~~ child is habitually and without justification absent from  
32 school.  
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-18-103(14)(A)(viii) and (ix), concerning  
35 the definition of "neglect" and other definitions applicable to the Child  
36 Maltreatment Act, are amended to read as follows:



1 (viii) Failure to appropriately supervise the child  
2 that results in the child's being placed in:

3 (a) Inappropriate circumstances creating a  
4 dangerous situation; or

5 (b) A situation that puts the child at risk of  
6 harm; ~~or~~

7 (ix) Failure to ensure a child between six (6) years  
8 of age and seventeen (17) years of age is enrolled in school or is being  
9 legally ~~home-schooled~~ home-schooled; or

10 ~~(x) as a result of an~~ An act or omission by the  
11 ~~child's parent, custodian, or guardian of the child, that results in~~ the  
12 child ~~is~~ being habitually and without justification absent from school.  
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14 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 12-18-304(g), concerning when the Child  
15 Abuse Hotline must accept a call concerning educational neglect, is amended  
16 to read as follows:

17 (g) The Child Abuse Hotline shall accept ~~each call~~ a report regarding  
18 educational neglect, ~~if the:~~

19 (1) Report alleges that a parent, custodian, or guardian of a  
20 child who is at least (6) years of age and under eighteen (18) years of age  
21 failed to enroll the child in school and lawfully home-school the child; or

22 (2) Report alleges that:

23 (A) A parent, custodian, or guardian of a child who is at  
24 least (6) years of age and under eighteen (18) years of age intentionally  
25 failed to ensure that the child attended school;

26 (B) The child's absence from school was not caused by the  
27 refusal of the child to attend school;

28 (C) The child has been absent from school for fifteen (15)  
29 days or more without justification during the academic school year; and

30 (D) The child's absence from school has had a  
31 substantially negative impact on the child's performance at school.  
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