

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 793

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BAHR.

1593H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 167.031 and 167.042, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to home school education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 167.031 and 167.042, RSMo, are repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 167.031, to read as follows:

167.031. 1. Every parent, guardian or other person in this state having charge, control
2 or custody of a child not enrolled in a public, private, parochial, parish school or full-time
3 equivalent attendance in a combination of such schools and between the ages of seven years and
4 the compulsory attendance age for the district is responsible for enrolling the child in a program
5 of academic instruction which complies with subsection 2 of this section. Any parent, guardian
6 or other person who enrolls a child between the ages of five and seven years in a public school
7 program of academic instruction shall cause such child to attend the academic program on a
8 regular basis, according to this section. Nonattendance by such child shall cause such parent,
9 guardian or other responsible person to be in violation of the provisions of section 167.061,
10 except as provided by this section. A parent, guardian or other person in this state having charge,
11 control, or custody of a child between the ages of seven years of age and the compulsory
12 attendance age for the district shall cause the child to attend regularly some public, private,
13 parochial, parish, home school or a combination of such schools not less than the entire school
14 term of the school which the child attends; except that:

15 (1) A child who, to the satisfaction of the superintendent of public schools of the district
16 in which he **or she** resides, or if there is no superintendent then the chief school officer, is

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 determined to be mentally or physically incapacitated may be excused from attendance at school
18 for the full time required, or any part thereof;

19 (2) A child between fourteen years of age and the compulsory attendance age for the
20 district may be excused from attendance at school for the full time required, or any part thereof,
21 by the superintendent of public schools of the district, or if there is none then by a court of
22 competent jurisdiction, when legal employment has been obtained by the child and found to be
23 desirable, and after the parents or guardian of the child have been advised of the pending action;
24 or

25 (3) A child between five and seven years of age shall be excused from attendance at
26 school if a parent, guardian or other person having charge, control or custody of the child makes
27 a written request that the child be dropped from the school's rolls.

28 2. (1) As used in sections 167.031 to 167.071, a "home school" is a school, whether
29 incorporated or unincorporated, that:

30 (a) Has as its primary purpose the provision of private or religious-based instruction;

31 (b) Enrolls pupils between the ages of seven years and the compulsory attendance age
32 for the district, of which no more than four are unrelated by affinity or consanguinity in the third
33 degree; and

34 (c) Does not charge or receive consideration in the form of tuition, fees, or other
35 remuneration in a genuine and fair exchange for provision of instruction.

36 (2) As evidence that a child is receiving regular instruction, the parent shall, except as
37 otherwise provided in this subsection:

38 (a) Maintain the following records:

39 a. A plan book, diary, or other written record indicating subjects taught and activities
40 engaged in; and

41 b. A portfolio of samples of the child's academic work; and

42 c. A record of evaluations of the child's academic progress; or

43 d. Other written, or credible evidence equivalent to subparagraphs a., b. and c.; ~~and~~

44 **or**

45 (b) Offer at least one thousand hours of instruction, at least six hundred hours of which
46 will be in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science or academic courses
47 that are related to the aforementioned subject areas and consonant with the pupil's age and
48 ability. At least four hundred of the six hundred hours shall occur at the regular home school
49 location.

50 (3) The requirements of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not apply to any pupil
51 above the age of sixteen years.

52 3. Nothing in this section shall require a private, parochial, parish or home school to
53 include in its curriculum any concept, topic, or practice in conflict with the school's religious
54 doctrines or to exclude from its curriculum any concept, topic, or practice consistent with the
55 school's religious doctrines. Any other provision of the law to the contrary notwithstanding, all
56 departments or agencies of the state of Missouri shall be prohibited from dictating through rule,
57 regulation or other device any statewide curriculum for private, parochial, parish or home
58 schools.

59 4. A school year begins on the first day of July and ends on the thirtieth day of June
60 following.

61 5. The production by a parent of a daily log showing that a home school has a course of
62 instruction which satisfies the requirements of this section or, in the case of a pupil over the age
63 of sixteen years who attended a metropolitan school district the previous year, a written statement
64 that the pupil is attending home school in compliance with this section shall be a defense to any
65 prosecution under this section and to any charge or action for educational neglect brought
66 pursuant to chapter 210.

67 6. As used in sections 167.031 to 167.051, the term "compulsory attendance age for the
68 district" shall mean:

69 (1) Seventeen years of age for any metropolitan school district for which the school
70 board adopts a resolution to establish such compulsory attendance age; provided that such
71 resolution shall take effect no earlier than the school year next following the school year during
72 which the resolution is adopted; and

73 (2) Seventeen years of age or having successfully completed sixteen credits towards high
74 school graduation in all other cases.

75

76 The school board of a metropolitan school district for which the compulsory attendance age is
77 seventeen years may adopt a resolution to lower the compulsory attendance age to sixteen years;
78 provided that such resolution shall take effect no earlier than the school year next following the
79 school year during which the resolution is adopted.

80 7. For purposes of subsection 2 of this section as applied in subsection 6 ~~herein~~ **of this**
81 **section**, a "completed credit towards high school graduation" shall be defined as one hundred
82 hours or more of instruction in a course. Home school education enforcement and records
83 pursuant to this section, and sections 210.167 and 211.031, shall be subject to review only by the
84 local prosecuting attorney **and only if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that there has**
85 **been a violation of this section.**

86 **8. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if an agent of a public school**
87 **or school board possesses any individually identifiable information about a child receiving**

88 **instruction under subsection 2 of this section, such information shall remain confidential,**
89 **shall not be posted or published in any format or medium, and shall not be disclosed to any**
90 **other person or entity without the written consent of:**

91 **(a) The child, if the child is eighteen years of age or older; or**

92 **(b) The parent, guardian, or other person having charge, control, or custody of the**
93 **child, if the child is under eighteen years of age.**

94 **(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if an agent of a public school**
95 **or school board possesses any individually identifiable information about the parent,**
96 **guardian, or other person having charge, control, or custody of a child receiving**
97 **instruction under subsection 2 of this section, such information shall remain confidential,**
98 **shall not be posted or published in any format or medium, and shall not be disclosed to any**
99 **other person or entity without the written consent of the parent, guardian, or other person**
100 **having charge, control, or custody of the child.**

101 **(3) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, the individually**
102 **identifiable information described in this subsection:**

103 **(a) May be disclosed internally to another agent of a public school or school board**
104 **for administrative purposes;**

105 **(b) May be transmitted to the local prosecuting attorney if the agent has a**
106 **reasonable suspicion of a violation of this section; and**

107 **(c) May be disclosed for other purposes as authorized by law.**

2 ~~[167.042. For the purpose of minimizing unnecessary investigations due~~
3 ~~to reports of truancy, each parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the~~
4 ~~child who causes his child to attend regularly a home school may provide to the~~
5 ~~recorder of deeds of the county where the child legally resides, or to the chief~~
6 ~~school officer of the public school district where the child legally resides, a~~
7 ~~signed, written declaration of enrollment stating their intent for the child to attend~~
8 ~~a home school within thirty days after the establishment of the home school and~~
9 ~~by September first annually thereafter. The name and age of each child attending~~
10 ~~the home school, the address and telephone number of the home school, the name~~
11 ~~of each person teaching in the home school, and the name, address and signature~~
12 ~~of each person making the declaration of enrollment shall be included in said~~
13 ~~notice. A declaration of enrollment to provide a home school shall not be cause~~
14 ~~to investigate violations of section 167.031. The recorder of deeds may charge~~
~~a service cost of not more than one dollar for each notice filed.]~~

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