

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1186

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DIXON.

Read 1st time March 27, 2007 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

2730L.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 167.031, 167.034, 167.051, and 167.052, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to compulsory attendance for school age children, with an effective date for certain sections.

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

Section A. Sections 167.031, 167.034, 167.051, and 167.052, RSMo, are repealed and
2 four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 167.031, 167.034, 167.051,
3 and 1, 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] **and seventeen years** is responsible for enrolling
5 the child in a program of academic instruction which complies with subsection 2 of this section.
6 Any parent, guardian or other person who enrolls a child between the ages of five and seven
7 years in a public school program of academic instruction shall cause such child to attend the
8 academic program on a regular basis, according to this section. Nonattendance by such child
9 shall cause such parent, guardian or other responsible person to be in violation of the provisions
10 of section 167.061, except as provided by this section. A parent, guardian or other person in this
11 state having charge, control, or custody of a child between the ages of seven [years of age and
12 the compulsory attendance age for the district] **and seventeen years** shall cause the child to

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.

13 attend regularly some public, private, parochial, parish, home school or a combination of such
14 schools not less than the entire school 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 resides, or if there is no superintendent then the chief school officer, is determined
17 to be mentally or physically incapacitated may be excused from attendance at school for the full
18 time required, or any part thereof;

19 (2) A child between fourteen **and seventeen** years of age [and the compulsory attendance
20 age for the district] may be excused from attendance at school for the full time required, or any
21 part thereof, by the superintendent of public schools of the district, or if there is none then by a
22 court of competent jurisdiction, when legal employment has been obtained by the child and
23 found to be desirable, and after the parents or guardian of the child have been advised of the
24 pending action; 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] **and seventeen years**, of which no more than four are unrelated by affinity or
33 consanguinity in the third 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 (b) Offer at least one thousand hours of instruction, at least six hundred hours of which
45 will be in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science or academic courses
46 that are related to the aforementioned subject areas and consonant with the pupil's age and
47 ability. At least four hundred of the six hundred hours shall occur at the regular home school
48 location.

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

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

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

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

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

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

72 (2) Sixteen years of age in all other cases.

73

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

78 7.] The provisions of this section shall apply to any parent, guardian, or other person in
79 this state having charge, control, or custody of a child between the ages of fifteen and eighteen
80 if such child has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent and a court order has been
81 issued as to such child under section 211.034, RSMo.

167.034. 1. In any city not within a county where a child under the age of [seventeen]
2 **eighteen** required to attend school under section 167.031 accumulates fifteen or more absences
3 during any one school year, the child's school district shall report such absences to the division

4 of family services, children's division, within ten business days of the fifteenth day of absence.
5 Such notification, which shall be in written form and retained in the student's school records,
6 shall include:

- 7 (1) The student's full name and parents' or guardians' full names;
- 8 (2) The addresses and phone numbers of the student and parents or guardians;
- 9 (3) The student's date of birth and age;
- 10 (4) The student's current school and grade level;
- 11 (5) The student's current grades for all classes in which the student is enrolled; and
- 12 (6) The total number of days missed and specific days missed from school.

13 2. Upon receipt of a report of the absences of a child under this section, the children's
14 division shall notify the child's parent or guardian that the child has accumulated fifteen or more
15 absences and such report may be subject to the educational neglect provisions under section
16 210.145, RSMo. The notification required under this section is required regardless of whether
17 a student's parent or guardian contacted the school and approved of the absences.

167.051. 1. If a school board establishes part-time schools or classes for children under
2 [seventeen] **eighteen** years of age, lawfully engaged in any regular employment, every parent,
3 guardian or other person having charge, control or custody of such a child shall cause the child
4 to attend the school not less than four hours a week between the hours of eight o'clock in the
5 morning and five o'clock in the evening during the school year of the part-time classes.

6 2. All children who are under eighteen years of age, who have not completed the
7 elementary school course in the public schools of Missouri, or its equivalent, and who are not
8 attending regularly any day school shall be required to attend regularly the part-time classes not
9 less than four hours a week between the hours of eight o'clock in the morning and five o'clock
10 in the afternoon during the entire year of the part-time classes.

Section 1. 1. There is hereby created within the department of elementary and
2 **secondary education a task force on assisting school districts to meet compulsory**
3 **attendance requirements. The task force shall be comprised of the following members:**

- 4 (1) **One senator appointed by the president pro tem of the senate;**
- 5 (2) **One representative appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;**
- 6 (3) **The commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education**
7 **or his or her designee;**
- 8 (4) **Seven members appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the**
9 **senate, including: one law enforcement officer, two school administrators, two teachers,**
10 **and two school counselors.**

12 **The members shall elect a chair from among their membership. Members shall receive no**
13 **compensation for the performance of their duties pursuant to this section, but each**
14 **member shall be reimbursed by the department for actual and necessary expenses incurred**
15 **in carrying out duties pursuant to this section.**

16 **2. The task force shall meet no less than twice each calendar year with additional**
17 **meetings called by the chair upon the request of at least two members. A majority of the**
18 **appointed members shall constitute a quorum.**

19 **3. The task force shall address, but not be limited to, the following issues:**

20 **(1) Making recommendations on flexibility that the department of elementary and**
21 **secondary education shall grant to school districts that establish innovative programs to**
22 **meet the needs of students at risk of dropping out of school;**

23 **(2) Establishing a grant program to help districts that want to establish programs**
24 **to meet the needs of students at risk of dropping out of school;**

25 **(3) Making recommendations on additional funding to implement additional**
26 **programs to meet the needs of students at risk of dropping out of school;**

27 **(4) Researching successful programs in this state and in other states that have been**
28 **successful in reducing the drop out rate;**

29 **(5) Establishing one location for school districts that are searching for programs**
30 **to help reduce the drop out rate;**

31 **(6) Engaging representatives of the juvenile justice system, including the Missouri**
32 **Bar Association, to look at other changes in law, rules, and regulations, or procedures that**
33 **would need to be changed because of a change in the compulsory attendance.**

34 **4. The task force shall update the state board of education periodically concerning**
35 **its work and shall report its final findings and recommendations by July 1, 2010, to the**
36 **state board of education and the general assembly.**

2 [167.052. The provisions of sections 167.031 and 167.051 affecting a
3 metropolitan school district shall be effective for the school year beginning
4 2007-08 and shall terminate after the school year ending 2011-12.]

2 Section B. The repeal of section 167.052, and the repeal and reenactment of sections
2 167.031, 167.034, and 167.051, shall become effective on July 1, 2013.

