

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2621

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BAKER.

5414H.021

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, 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Section A. Sections 167.031 and 167.042, RSMo, are repealed and one new section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]** **that** complies with subsection 2 of this section. Any parent,
6 guardian, or other person who enrolls a child between the ages of five and seven years in a public
7 school program of academic instruction shall cause such child to attend the academic program
8 on a regular basis, according to this section. Nonattendance by such child shall cause such
9 parent, guardian, or other responsible person to be in violation of the provisions of section
10 167.061, except as provided by this section. A parent, guardian, or other person in this state
11 having charge, control, or custody of a child between the ages of seven years of age and the
12 compulsory attendance age for the district shall cause the child to attend regularly some public,
13 private, parochial, parish, home school, or a combination of such schools not less than the entire
14 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]** **the child** 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. **of this**
44 **paragraph;** and

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~~ **such** 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~~] **that** satisfies the requirements of this section or, in the case of a pupil over
63 the age of sixteen years who attended a metropolitan school district the previous year, a written
64 statement that the pupil is attending home school in compliance with this section shall be a
65 defense to any prosecution under this section and to any charge or action for educational neglect
66 brought pursuant to chapter 210.

67 6. **(1)** As used in sections 167.031 to 167.051, the term "compulsory attendance age for
68 the district" shall mean:

69 ~~[(1)]~~ **(a)** 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)]~~ **(b)** Seventeen years of age or having successfully completed sixteen credits towards
74 high school graduation in all other cases.

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

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

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~~
 ~~recorder of deeds of the county where the child legally resides, or to the chief~~

5 ~~school officer of the public school district where the child legally resides, a~~
6 ~~signed, written declaration of enrollment stating their intent for the child to attend~~
7 ~~a home school within thirty days after the establishment of the home school and~~
8 ~~by September first annually thereafter. The name and age of each child attending~~
9 ~~the home school, the address and telephone number of the home school, the name~~
10 ~~of each person teaching in the home school, and the name, address and signature~~
11 ~~of each person making the declaration of enrollment shall be included in said~~
12 ~~notice. A declaration of enrollment to provide a home school shall not be cause~~
13 ~~to investigate violations of section 167.031. The recorder of deeds may charge~~
14 ~~a service cost of not more than one dollar for each notice filed.]~~

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