

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1950

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to H.P. 1893, L.D. 1950, Bill,
"AN ACT to Suspend Public Law 1977, Chapter 499, "An Act
Relating to Habitual Truants and School Dropouts," until July 1,
1979."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of the title and inserting
in its place the following:

'AN ACT Amending the Law Relating to Habitual Truants and School
Dropouts.'

Further amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting
clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 20 MRSA §911, sub-§2, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1977, c.
499, §1, is amended to read:

E. Planned absences for personal or educational purposes
which have been approved in-advance.

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA §911, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1977,
c. 499, §1, is amended by adding at the end the following new
sentence:

The commissioner shall provide guidance in establishing the
rules and regulations.

Sec. 3. 20 MRSA §911, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 499,
§1, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 20 MRSA §911, sub-§6-A is enacted to read:

6-A. Habitual truant; report; notice to parents; guidelines
of meeting. If a child is habitually truant, as defined in section

914, the procedures adopted in subsection 5 shall be adhered to:

A. If the superintendent determines that he is unable to resolve the problem, he shall refer the matter to the local school committee or board of directors.

B. Information presented to the local school committee or the board of directors shall include, but not be limited to, the report presented by the principal to the superintendent of schools.

C. The local school committee or board of directors shall call a meeting to hear the matter and, at least 7 days in advance of the meeting, the parents or the guardian of the child shall be notified in writing of the date and the time of the meeting.

D. The written notice of the meeting shall advise the child's guardian or his parents of the following:

- (1) The purpose of the meeting;
- (2) Their right to inspect the child's records and the principal's report; and
- (3) The necessity for them and the child to be present.

Sec. 5. 20 MRSA §914, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 499, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§914. Habitual truant; definition

A child is determined to be an habitual truant if he is absent from school the equivalent of 10 full days or for 1/2 of a day on 7 consecutive school days within any 6-month period for other than an excusable absence, as referred to in section 911.

Sec. 6. 20 MRSA §966, last sentence, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 499, §3, is amended to read:

For subsidy distribution purposes, the previous ~~sentence~~ 2 sentences shall not be in effect until the ~~1978-79~~ 1979-80 school year.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.'

Statement of Fact

The purposes of this amendment are to:

1. Repeal language which specifies the type of information which, if available, should be included in the report to a superintendent relating to a student who is an habitual truant;
2. Provide that local units should decide, subject to guidelines established by the commissioner, what information should be included in this report;
3. Amend the definition of habitual truant. Presently habitual truancy is defined as unexcused absences of 5 full school days or 10 half school days;
4. Correct an error in the effective date of the provision relating to pupil counts and the annual subsidy distribution; and
5. Delete the words "in advance" in the definition of excusable absence in order to permit planned absences for educational or personal purposes to be approved after the fact.

Reported by the Committee on Education.

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