2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 629

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

STUDENT/SCH ATTENDANCE: Provides relative to responsibilities of parents and schools with respect to truant children

1   AN ACT

2   To amend and reenact R.S. 17:233(B)(1)(b), relative to truancy; to provide for parental and

3   school responsibilities with respect to truant students; to provide for criminal

4   penalties; and to provide for related matters.

5   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6   Section 1. R.S. 17:233(B)(1)(b) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7   §233. Cases of habitual absence or tardiness referred to juvenile or family court;

8   denial or suspension of driving privileges; parental responsibilities

9   *   *   *

10   B.(1)

11   *   *   *

12   (b)(i) The parent or legal guardian of a student shall enforce the attendance

13   of the student at the school to which the student is assigned. The parent or legal

14   guardian of a truant student shall ensure that the student makes up missed school

15   work by attending after-school tutoring sessions, weekend make-up classes, or other

16   remediation opportunities, as determined by the school board until the students has

17   caught up with his school work. The parent shall also attend meetings at the school

18   on at least a monthly basis relative to the student's progress until the student has

19   caught up on his missed school work and any assistance fair conducted by the school

20   district that provides information on supports available to families. Failure to

1   comply with the provisions of this Item may subject a parent to the penalties

2   provided in R.S. 14:92.2.

3   (ii) The principal of each school or his designee shall note any concerns that

4   school personnel have relative to a child's school attendance on the back of any

5   Supplemental Security Income form that the school receives relative to that child.

6   *   *   *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 629 Engrossed   2024 Regular Session   Phelps

Abstract: Provides relative to responsibilities of parents and schools with respect to truant children.

Present law requires parents to send their children to school and provides certain penalties for failure to comply. Proposed law additionally requires the parent of a truant student to ensure that the student makes up missed school work by attending after-school tutoring sessions, weekend make-up classes, or other remediation opportunities, as determined by the school board, until the student has caught up with his school work. Requires the parent to attend meetings at the school on at least a monthly basis relative to the student's progress until the student has caught up on his missed school work and any assistance fair conducted by the district that provides information on supports available to families. Provides that failure to comply with proposed law may subject a parent to present law penalties for the crime of improper supervision of a minor.

Proposed law further requires each school principal to note any concerns that school personnel have relative to a student's attendance on any Supplemental Security Income form the school receives relative to that child.

(Amends R.S. 17:233(B)(1)(b))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

    The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

    1.   Add that failure to comply with proposed law may subject parents to present law criminal penalties for improper supervision of a minor.

    2.   Provide that work can be made up at other remediation opportunities in addition to after-school tutoring sessions and weekend make-up classes.

    3.   Add requirement that principals note concerns that school personnel have relative to a student's attendance on any Supplemental Security Income form the school receives relative to that child.