

HOUSE BILL 207

F1

3lr0690

By: **Delegates Luedtke, Ivey, Kaiser, Myers, and A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2013

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 19, 2013

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Chronically Absent Students**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring county boards of education to develop a system of
4 intervention for chronically absent students; defining ~~certain terms~~ a certain
5 term; providing that this Act does not prohibit a county board from taking
6 certain actions; and generally relating to chronically absent students.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Education

9 Section 7–302.2

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Education**

15 **7–302.2.**

16 (A) ~~(1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE~~
17 ~~MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

18 ~~(2)~~ **“(2) “CHRONICALLY,” “CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENT” MEANS A**
19 **STUDENT ~~WHO~~;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 ~~(1) WHO IS UNLAWFULLY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR MORE~~
 2 ~~THAN 10% OF THE SCHOOL DAYS IN ANY GIVEN QUARTER, SEMESTER, OR~~
 3 ~~ACADEMIC YEAR.~~

4 ~~(3) "UNLAWFUL ABSENCE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN~~
 5 ~~MORE THAN:~~

6 (I) 8 DAYS IN ANY QUARTER;

7 (II) 15 DAYS IN ANY SEMESTER; OR

8 (III) 20 DAYS IN A SCHOOL YEAR; AND

9 ~~(2) WHOSE ABSENCES FOR PURPOSES OF ITEM (1) OF THIS~~
 10 ~~SUBSECTION ARE UNLAWFUL ABSENCES WITHIN THE MEANING OF COMAR~~
 11 ~~13A.08.01.03 AND 13A.08.01.04.~~

12 (B) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF ACTIVE
 13 INTERVENTION FOR ~~STUDENTS WHO ARE~~ CHRONICALLY ABSENT ~~FROM SCHOOL~~
 14 STUDENTS.

15 ~~(C) EACH COUNTY BOARD'S SYSTEM OF INTERVENTION FOR~~
 16 ~~CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENTS SHALL INCLUDE:~~

17 ~~(1) A ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS BY QUALIFIED SCHOOL SYSTEM~~
 18 ~~PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY WHAT FACTORS ARE LEADING TO A STUDENT'S~~
 19 ~~ABSENCES AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS THOSE FACTORS; AND~~

20 ~~(2) IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY SCHOOL SYSTEM PERSONNEL,~~
 21 ~~REFERRALS TO SOCIAL SERVICE OR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WHO MIGHT BE~~
 22 ~~ABLE TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF A STUDENT'S ABSENCES.~~

23 ~~(D) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD'S SYSTEM OF INTERVENTION FOR~~
 24 ~~CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENTS SHALL REQUIRE INTERACTION BETWEEN~~
 25 ~~SCHOOL SYSTEM PERSONNEL, THE STUDENT, AND THE STUDENT'S PARENTS OR~~
 26 ~~GUARDIAN TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR ATTENDANCE AND~~
 27 ~~STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING REGULAR ATTENDANCE.~~

28 ~~(2) THIS INTERACTION MAY INCLUDE COUNSELING OR PARENT~~
 29 ~~EDUCATION CLASSES.~~

30 ~~(E) (C) (1) ANY EACH CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENT ATTENDING~~
 31 ~~KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE WHO IS UNLAWFULLY ABSENT MORE~~

1 ~~THAN 10% OF THE SCHOOL DAYS IN ANY GIVEN QUARTER, SEMESTER, OR~~
2 ~~ACADEMIC YEAR~~ SHALL IMMEDIATELY BE REFERRED TO THE COUNTY BOARD'S
3 SYSTEM OF ACTIVE INTERVENTION ~~FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE CHRONICALLY~~
4 ~~ABSENT FROM SCHOOL~~ DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION.

5 ~~(2) THE COUNTY BOARD MAY INTERVENE AT A LOWER LEVEL OF~~
6 ~~ABSENCES.~~

7 (2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A COUNTY BOARD FROM
8 INTERVENING IN THE CASE OF A STUDENT WHO IS FREQUENTLY ABSENT FROM
9 SCHOOL BUT WHO IS NOT A CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENT.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2013.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.