

# HOUSE BILL 798

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By: **Delegate Glenn**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Truant Students – Active Intervention**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring, in Baltimore City, a certain system of active intervention for  
4 certain truant students developed by the Baltimore City Board of School  
5 Commissioners to include an Individualized Reengagement Plan for each truant  
6 student, coordination and collaboration with State and municipal agencies to deliver  
7 certain services, creation of a certain database to track truant students, and a  
8 specific plan for each public school to reengage truant students; requiring the  
9 Individualized Reengagement Plan to be developed by certain individuals using a  
10 certain process and requiring the Plan to be customized to the student; defining  
11 certain terms; and generally relating to requirements for a system of active  
12 intervention for truant students in Baltimore City.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Education  
15 Section 7–302.2  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 7–302.2.

22 (a) In this section, “truant student” means a student:

23 (1) Who is unlawfully absent from school for more than:

24 (i) 8 days in any quarter;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) 15 days in any semester; or

2 (iii) 20 days in a school year; and

3 (2) Whose absences for purposes of item (1) of this subsection are unlawful  
4 absences as defined by regulation.

5 (b) Each county board shall develop a system of active intervention for truant  
6 students.

7 (c) (1) Each truant student attending kindergarten through 12th grade shall  
8 immediately be referred to the county board's system of active intervention developed  
9 under this section.

10 (2) This section does not prohibit a county board from intervening in the  
11 case of a student who is frequently absent from school for both lawful and unlawful  
12 purposes, but is not a truant student.

13 (D) (1) **THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IN BALTIMORE CITY.**

14 (2) (I) **IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**  
15 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

16 (II) **"BOARD" MEANS THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL**  
17 **COMMISSIONERS.**

18 (III) **"INDIVIDUALIZED REENGAGEMENT PLAN" MEANS A**  
19 **DOCUMENT THAT CONTAINS AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN OF ACTION TO REENGAGE A**  
20 **TRUANT STUDENT WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY DISENGAGED SOCIALLY AND**  
21 **ACADEMICALLY.**

22 (IV) **"TRUANCY ACTION PLANNING" MEANS A SYSTEMATIC**  
23 **PROCESS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, CASE MANAGEMENT, AND DATA ANALYSIS THAT IS**  
24 **USED TO DEVELOP AN INDIVIDUALIZED REENGAGEMENT PLAN TO REENGAGE A**  
25 **TRUANT STUDENT.**

26 (3) (I) **THE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF ACTIVE**  
27 **INTERVENTION FOR TRUANT STUDENTS THAT SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF**  
28 **THIS SUBSECTION.**

29 (II) **FOR TRUANT STUDENTS WHO ARE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD**  
30 **OR WHO ARE NOT ACCUMULATING SUFFICIENT CREDITS TO REASONABLY**  
31 **COMPLETE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BEFORE THE AGE OF 21 YEARS, THE SYSTEM**  
32 **OF ACTIVE INTERVENTION SHALL INCLUDE:**

1                   1.    A REQUIREMENT FOR AN INDIVIDUALIZED  
2 REENGAGEMENT PLAN TO BE DEVELOPED FOR EACH TRUANT STUDENT THROUGH  
3 TRUANCY ACTION PLANNING;

4                   2.    COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH STATE  
5 AND MUNICIPAL AGENCIES TO DELIVER SERVICES TO TRUANT STUDENTS;

6                   3.    THE CREATION OF A DATABASE IN BALTIMORE CITY  
7 THAT WILL BE USED TO IDENTIFY AND TRACK EACH TRUANT STUDENT, INCLUDING  
8 ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED, PROGRESS TOWARD HIGH SCHOOL  
9 GRADUATION OR GED, AND OTHER RELEVANT STUDENT OUTCOMES; AND

10                  4.    A REQUIREMENT FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL UNDER  
11 THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD TO PREPARE A SCHOOL-SPECIFIC PLAN TO  
12 REENGAGE TRUANT STUDENTS.

13                  (4)   THE INDIVIDUALIZED REENGAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED UNDER  
14 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE:

15                   (i)   DEVELOPED BY A GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS EMPLOYED  
16 BY THE BOARD SUCH AS TEACHERS, GUIDANCE COUNSELORS, FAMILY SERVICES  
17 COORDINATORS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS;

18                   (ii)  DEVELOPED USING A SYSTEMATIC PROCESS OF SOCIAL  
19 SERVICES, CASE MANAGEMENT, AND DATA ANALYSIS; AND

20                   (iii) CUSTOMIZED TO THE STUDENT TO ASSIST IN THE  
21 STUDENT’S REENGAGEMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING:

22                   1.    MEASURABLE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE  
23 STUDENT;

24                   2.    STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND THE  
25 STUDENT;

26                   3.    A LIST OF ANY SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS,  
27 RESOURCES, AND SERVICES FOR THE STUDENT; AND

28                   4.    A PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF THE PLAN AFTER A TRIAL  
29 PERIOD OF 4 TO 6 WEEKS.

30                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
31 1, 2019.

