

SENATE FILE NO. SF0088

Compulsory school attendance.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Job, Decaria, Massie, Schiffer  
and Sessions and Representative(s)  
Wasserburger

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to compulsory school attendance; requiring  
2 school districts to adopt policies for unexcused absences  
3 as specified; modifying the definition of habitual truant  
4 as specified; modifying penalties; and providing for an  
5 effective date.

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7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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9 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-4-101(a)(i) and (ii) and 21-4-102  
10 by creating a new subsection (c) are amended to read:

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12 **21-4-101. Definitions.**

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14 (a) For the purposes of this article:

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1           (i) "Unexcused absence" means the absence, ~~as~~  
2 ~~defined in the policies of the local board of trustees,~~ of  
3 any child required by this article to attend school when  
4 such absence is not excused ~~to the satisfaction of the~~  
5 ~~board of trustees by the parent, guardian, or other person~~  
6 ~~having control of such child;~~ in accordance with policies  
7 of the district board of trustees. Each district shall  
8 adopt an excused absence policy which shall provide that a  
9 student shall be excused for an absence, upon request by  
10 the parent, guardian or other person having control of the  
11 student, where the absence is the result of:

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13                   (A) The student's being ill;

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15                   (B) The death or serious illness of a  
16 member of the student's family or a friend;

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18                   (C) Another reason such that the absence is  
19 essential to the student's health, education and welfare as  
20 balanced against the student's school attendance. In  
21 adopting an excused absence policy, the district shall not  
22 authorize excused absences which are primarily for the  
23 convenience of the student or the parent, guardian or other  
24 person having control of the student.

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(ii) "Habitual truant" means any child with:

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~~five (5)~~

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(A) Eighteen (18) or more hours of

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unexcused absences in any one (1) calendar month; or

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(B) Sixty (60) or more hours of unexcused

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absences in any one (1) school year. In the excused

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absence policy established by school districts under

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paragraph (a)(i) of this section, school districts shall

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also establish procedures for computing hours of unexcused

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absences under this paragraph and W.S. 21-4-102(c) where

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each full school day shall be counted as six (6) hours.

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**21-4-102. When attendance required; exemptions;**

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**penalty.**

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(c) A child required to attend school pursuant to

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subsection (a) of this section who accumulates ninety (90)

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or more hours or fifteen (15) days of unexcused absences in

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any one (1) semester may be denied promotion to the next

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grade or credit for Carnegie units for the semester.

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1         **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2002.

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(END)