

**House File 71 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 71

BY HUNTER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the compulsory school attendance age and  
2 providing effective dates.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 299.1A, Code 2011, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **299.1A Compulsory attendance age.**

4 1. a. A Except as provided in paragraph "b" and section  
5 299.2, a child who has reached the age of six and is under  
6 sixteen through seventeen years of age by September 15 is of  
7 compulsory attendance age. However, if a child enrolled in  
8 a school district or accredited nonpublic school reaches the  
9 age of sixteen on or after September 15, the child remains of  
10 compulsory age until the end of the regular school calendar.

11 b. A child who will receive competent private instruction  
12 in accordance with chapter 299A and who reaches the age of  
13 six by September 15 is of compulsory attendance age. A child  
14 receiving such private instruction is of compulsory attendance  
15 age until the age of sixteen if the child reaches age sixteen  
16 on or before September 15. A child receiving such private  
17 instruction who reaches age sixteen on or after September 15  
18 remains of compulsory attendance age until the end of the  
19 school year.

20 2. a. An individual who reaches the age of eighteen on  
21 or after September 15 during the school year and intends to  
22 terminate school enrollment prior to graduation is encouraged  
23 to file with the board of directors of the school district  
24 or the accredited nonpublic school of enrollment a formal  
25 declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment and, to  
26 the degree possible, participate in an exit interview pursuant  
27 to paragraph "b" and complete a survey in accordance with  
28 paragraph "c". The school district or accredited nonpublic  
29 school shall make every effort to notify the individual's  
30 parent or guardian of receipt of the individual's declaration  
31 of intent to terminate school enrollment.

32 b. To the degree possible, a guidance counselor or  
33 other school personnel designated by the school district or  
34 accredited nonpublic school shall conduct an exit interview  
35 with the individual to do all of the following:

1 (1) Determine the reasons for the individual's decision to  
2 terminate school enrollment.

3 (2) Discuss actions that could be taken to assist the  
4 individual to stay in school.

5 (3) Inform the individual of opportunities to continue the  
6 individual's education in a different environment, including  
7 but not limited to adult education and test preparation  
8 designed to qualify the individual for a high school  
9 equivalency diploma.

10 c. To the degree possible, the individual and the  
11 individual's parent or guardian are encouraged to complete a  
12 survey provided by the school district in a format prescribed  
13 by the department of education to provide data on the  
14 individual's reasons for terminating enrollment and actions  
15 taken by the school to keep the individual enrolled. The  
16 survey shall include an open-ended question asking why the  
17 individual is dropping out of school. The school district or  
18 accredited nonpublic school shall submit the data from the  
19 completed surveys to the department of education annually.

20 Sec. 2. Section 299.2, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2011,  
21 is amended to read as follows:

22 ~~Section~~ Sections 299.1 and 299.1A shall not apply to any  
23 child:

24 Sec. 3. Section 299A.8, Code 2011, is amended to read as  
25 follows:

26 **299A.8 Dual enrollment.**

27 If a parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child who is  
28 receiving competent private instruction under this chapter ~~or a~~  
29 ~~child over compulsory age who is receiving private instruction~~  
30 submits a request, the child shall also be registered in a  
31 public school for dual enrollment purposes. If the child  
32 is enrolled in a public school district for dual enrollment  
33 purposes, the child shall be permitted to participate in any  
34 academic activities in the district and shall also be permitted  
35 to participate on the same basis as public school children in

1 any extracurricular activities available to children in the  
2 child's grade or group, and the parent, guardian, or legal  
3 custodian shall not be required to pay the costs of any annual  
4 evaluation under this chapter. If the child is enrolled for  
5 dual enrollment purposes, the child shall be included in the  
6 public school's basic enrollment under section 257.6. A pupil  
7 who is participating only in extracurricular activities shall  
8 be counted under section 257.6, subsection 1, paragraph "a",  
9 subparagraph (6). A pupil enrolled in grades nine through  
10 twelve under this section shall be counted in the same manner  
11 as a shared-time pupil under section 257.6, subsection 1,  
12 paragraph "a", subparagraph (3).

13 Sec. 4. SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE SUPPORT  
14 REVIEW. The board of directors of each school district  
15 shall, during the school year beginning July 1, 2011, convene  
16 a working group comprised of educational and community  
17 stakeholders to review financial and programmatic supports for  
18 students affected by an increase in the compulsory attendance  
19 age from sixteen through seventeen. The working group shall  
20 consider, at a minimum, the necessity of expansion of support  
21 programs and services for such students, web-based at-risk  
22 academy courses, summer school offerings, credit recovery  
23 efforts, mentoring and tutoring services, before and after  
24 school supports, career academies, and at-risk allowable growth  
25 provisions, and the use of the instructional support levy.  
26 The working group shall include in the comprehensive school  
27 improvement plan submitted to the department of education  
28 in accordance with section 256.7, subsection 21, a plan for  
29 addressing the needs of students at risk of dropping out,  
30 including any proposed changes to the local program or funding  
31 priorities.

32 Sec. 5. COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE WORKING GROUP. The  
33 department of education shall convene a working group  
34 comprised of the director of the department of education, or  
35 the director's designee, and other education stakeholders

1 appointed by the department to review supports for students  
2 affected by an increase in the compulsory attendance age from  
3 sixteen to eighteen years of age. The working group shall  
4 consider, at a minimum, the necessity of expansion of support  
5 programs and services for such students, online at-risk academy  
6 courses, career academies, and current at-risk allowable  
7 growth provisions, and full funding of the instructional  
8 support levy. The working group shall submit its findings  
9 and recommendations, including any proposed changes in policy  
10 or statute, to the state board of education and the general  
11 assembly by January 16, 2012.

12 Sec. 6. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
13 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
14 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
15 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
16 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
17 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
18 to meet all the state funding-related requirements of section  
19 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall  
20 be necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and  
21 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

22 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. The section of this Act providing  
23 for a compulsory attendance working group takes effect July 1,  
24 2011, and the remainder of the Act takes effect July 1, 2012.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This bill raises the compulsory school attendance age from  
27 16 to 17 for students other than those receiving competent  
28 private instruction. The bill encourages students, other than  
29 those who received competent private instruction, who reach  
30 age 18 on or after September 15 and intend to leave school, to  
31 file with the school district or accredited nonpublic school  
32 a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment  
33 and, to the degree possible, participate in an exit interview  
34 and complete a survey that will provide data annually to the  
35 department of education regarding the reasons students are

1 terminating enrollment.

2 The school district or nonpublic school must make every  
3 effort to notify the individual's parent or guardian of a  
4 student's intent to terminate enrollment. To the degree  
5 possible, in conducting the exit interview, school personnel  
6 must determine the reasons for the individual's decision to  
7 terminate school enrollment, discuss actions that could be  
8 taken to assist the individual to stay in school, and inform  
9 the individual of opportunities to continue the individual's  
10 education in a different environment, including but not limited  
11 to adult education and test preparation designed to qualify the  
12 individual for a high school equivalency diploma. The survey  
13 must include an open-ended question asking why the student is  
14 dropping out.

15 The bill directs each school district to convene a working  
16 group during the 2011-2012 school year to review financial and  
17 programmatic supports for students affected by the increase  
18 in the compulsory age of attendance. The working group  
19 must include in the school district's comprehensive school  
20 improvement plan a plan for addressing the needs of students  
21 at risk of dropping out.

22 The bill also directs the department of education to convene  
23 a compulsory attendance working group. The working group  
24 is to review supports for affected students and to consider  
25 the necessity of expanding support programs and services,  
26 online at-risk academy courses, career academies, current  
27 at-risk allowable growth provisions, and full funding of the  
28 instructional support levy. The working group must submit a  
29 report to the general assembly and the department of education  
30 by January 16, 2012.

31 The bill includes technical amendments to eliminate a  
32 reference to the compulsory attendance age for purposes of dual  
33 enrollment and to exempt children who meet conditions existing  
34 in Code section 299.2.

35 The provision relating to the compulsory attendance working

1 group takes effect July 1, 2011, while the remainder of the  
2 bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

3     The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
4 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
5 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
6 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
7 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
8 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
9 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
10 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
11 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
12 mandates included in the bill.