

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO SECURE TO CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF SEVEN AND FOURTEEN THE BENEFIT OF AN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. That every person having under his control a child between the ages of seven
2 and fourteen years, shall annually cause such child to attend, for at least sixteen weeks, at
3 least eight weeks of which attendance shall be consecutive, some public day school in the dis-
4 trict in which he resides, which time shall commence with the beginning of the first term of
5 the school year, or as soon thereafter as due notice shall be served upon the persons having
6 such control, of his duty under this act. For every neglect of such duty the person offending
7 shall forfeit to the use of the public schools of such district, a sum not less than one nor more
8 than twenty dollars, and shall stand committed until such fine and costs of suit are paid.
9 But if any person so neglecting shall show to the satisfaction of the board of directors that
10 such child has attended for a like period of time a private day school approved by the board
11 of directors of the district in which such child resides, or that instruction has otherwise been
12 given for a like period of time to such child in the branches commonly taught in the public
13 school, or that such child has already acquired the branches of learning taught in the public
14 schools, or that his physical or mental condition, as declared by a competent physician, is such
15 as to render such attendance inexpedient and impracticable, then such penalty shall not be
16 incurred. Such fine shall be paid, when collected, to the school treasurer of such district and
17 shall be a part of the contingent fund, to be accounted for by him as other school money
18 raised for school purposes. But no school shall be regarded as a school under this act unless
19 there shall be taught therein the branches required to be taught in the public schools of Iowa.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the board of directors in every district to appoint one or
2 more truant officers, whose duty it shall be carefully to inquire concerning all supposed vio-
3 lations of this act, and to enter complaint against all persons who shall appear to be guilty of
4 such violation. It shall be the duty, also, of said officer to arrest children of school-going age
5 who habitually haunt public places and have no lawful occupation, and also truant children
6 who absent themselves from school without leave, and to place them in charge of the teacher
7 having charge of the public school which the said children are by law entitled to attend.
8 And it shall be the duty of said teacher to assign said children to the proper classes, and to
9 instruct them in such studies as they are qualified to pursue. Said truant officers shall have

10 such compensation for their services rendered, under this act, as shall be determined by the
11 board of directors appointing such officer, which compensation shall be paid from the con-
12 tingent school fund of the district.

SEC. 3. Any person having control of a child, who with intent to evade the provisions of
2 this act, shall make a willful false statement concerning the age of such child, or the time such
3 child has attended school, shall, for such offense, forfeit a sum of not less than three dollars
4 nor more than twenty dollars for the use of the public schools of such district.

SEC. 4. Prosecutions under this act shall be instituted and carried on by the authority of
2 such boards and be brought in the name of the state of Iowa for the use of the school fund of
3 said district.

SEC. 5. Police, municipal courts, justices of the peace, and judges of the county court,
2 shall have jurisdiction within their respective counties of all the offenses described in this act.