

A BILL

FOR AN ACT FOR COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL.

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

SECTION 1. That every parent, guardian or other person in this state having under his
2 control a child, between the ages of eight and fourteen years, shall annually cause such child
3 to attend some public day school, for at least sixteen (16) weeks, eight weeks of which atten-
4 dance shall be consecutive. In every public school there shall be taught, in the English lan-
5 guage, reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, United States his-
6 tory, and physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effects of stimulants and
7 narcotics upon the human system, and such other branches as the board of directors may
8 prescribe.

SEC. 2. Any parent, guardian, or other person failing to comply with the provisions of
2 this act shall, upon conviction, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and fined in a sum not
3 less than five nor more than ten dollars for the first offense, nor less than ten nor more than
4 twenty dollars for the second, and every subsequent offense. Said action shall be prosecuted
5 in the name of the state of Iowa before any court or officer of competent jurisdiction, and
6 all fines so collected shall be paid to the school treasurer of the district township where the
7 convicted person resides.

SEC. 3. If the person failing or neglecting to comply with the provisions of this act shall
2 show to the satisfaction of the board of directors of the district where he resides, that the
3 physical or mental condition of the child under his control is such as to render attendance at
4 school inexpedient or impracticable, or that by reason of poverty he was not able to clothe
5 such child properly, or that the child's father or mother was seriously ill, or that such child
6 has received private instruction or attended a private school, and there received instruction
7 in the English language in such branches as are required by this act to be taught in the pub-
8 lic schools, then the penalty provided in this act shall not be incurred. *Provided,* That pupils
9 who attend school or pursue a course of instruction elsewhere than in the public school must
10 show to the satisfaction of the board where they reside by an annual examination, if so
11 required, equal proficiency and equal progress with the average pupil of like age in the pub-
12 lic schools of their district.

SEC. 4. It shall be the special duty of school directors, and the president and secretary
2 of school boards to see to the enforcement of this statute in their respective school districts,
3 and to prosecute or cause to be prosecuted all persons that they have reason to believe
4 violate the provisions of this act. Any director or other school officer failing or neglecting
5 to comply with the requirements of this section within ten days after a written notice has
6 been served on him by any tax payer in his district shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor,
7 and shall, on conviction, be fined not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars, said fine to be
8 paid into the school fund of his district.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the board of directors in every city containing a popula-
2 tion of five thousand or over to appoint one or more truant officers whose duty it shall be
3 carefully to inquire concerning all supposed violations of this act and to enter complaint
4 against all persons who shall appear to be guilty of such violation. It shall also be the duty
5 of said officer to arrest children of a school going age, who habitually haunt public places
6 and have no lawful occupation, and also all truant children who absent themselves from
7 school without leave, and to place them in charge of the teacher having charge of the public
8 school which the said children are entitled to attend. Such truant officers shall have such
9 compensation for services rendered under this act as the board of directors appointing them
10 shall determine, which compensation shall be paid from the contingent fund.

SEC. 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed as abridging, in any manner, powers
2 already exercised by school boards in enforcing attendance during portions of the school
3 year not covered by this enactment.