

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ATTENDANCE OF CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF SEVEN AND FIFTEEN YEARS AT SOME PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR NOT LESS THAN TWELVE WEEKS IN EACH YEAR, IN WHICH READING, WRITING, ARITHMETIC AND AMERICAN HISTORY ARE TAUGHT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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

SECTION 1. Every parent or other person having under his control a child between the
1 ages of seven and fifteen years, shall annually cause such child to attend some public
2 or private day school in the independent district or district township in which he resides,
3 for a period of not less than twelve weeks in each year, commencing on the first day of Sep-
4 tember, A. D. 1890, unless the board of directors of the school district in which such parent
5 or guardian shall reside, shall excuse, by physician's certificate, or other good reason such
6 child from attendance, on its being shown to their satisfaction that the child's
7 bodily or mental condition is such as to prevent its attendance at school, or
8 application to study for the time required, or that its time and labor are essen-
9 tially necessary for the support of an indigent parent, brother or sister, or that such
10 child is being otherwise furnished with the means of education for a like period of
11 time, or has already acquired a fair knowledge of the branches of learning, ordinarily taught
12 in the common schools of this state provided, that in case the public school of the district in
13 which such parent or guardian resides shall be distant more than two miles from his resi-
14 dence by the nearest traveled road, he shall not be liable to the provisions of this act.

SEC. 2. The board of directors shall, in their respective districts, on the third Monday of
2 September of each year, or within fifteen days thereafter, in such manner as they shall deem
3 most expedient, ascertain the condition of all children between seven and fifteen years of
4 age, who shall not be in attendance in any public or private school, and shall cause a record
5 of the same to be kept by the secretary of such board, which record shall be open to the
6 inspection of every qualified elector and tax payer in said district.

SEC. 3. In case any parent, guardian or other person shall fail to comply with the pro-
2 visions of this act, said parent, guardian or other person, shall be liable to a fine of not less

3 than five dollars, nor more than ten dollars for the first offense, nor less than ten nor more
4 than twenty dollars for each and every subsequent offense, and provided that any child excused
5 by the board of directors for any of the reasons named in section one of this act shall not be
6 liable to such fine or prosecution therefor.

SEC. 4. 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
3 such child has attended school, shall, for such offense, forfeit a sum of not less than five dol-
4 lars nor more than twenty dollars, for the use of the public schools of said district or district
5 township.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the board of directors of any district or district townsh^t)
2 upon the filing of a written notice with the president of such board, signed by any qualified
3 elector or tax payer residing in such district, and setting forth the offense and charging the
4 offending party with the same, to forthwith cause a written notice thereof to be personally
5 served upon such person having control of any such child, of his duty under this act, and of
6 his default in failing to comply with the provisions hereof, and if within five days thereafter
7 such person shall appear before such board and show or to file with the secretary thereof a
8 a statement in writing, showing that before or after the receipt of such notice, such person
9 has caused such child to attend a school as provided in this act, in good faith, and with the
10 intention to continue such attendance, then and in that case the penalty provided by this act
11 shall not be incurred, and if such person fail to appear before such board or file his written
12 statement showing a full compliance with the requirements of this act, it shall be the duty of
13 such board of directors by its president to proceed forthwith against such person by an action
14 in the name of the state of Iowa before any justice of the peace or any court of competent
15 jurisdiction, and all fines or penalties collected under this act shall be paid into the temporary
16 school fund of the county in which such action is brought.

SEC. 6. Two weeks attendance at half time or night school, shall be considered, within
2 the meaning of this act, equivalent to an attendance of one week at a day school.

SEC. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after the first day of Septem-
2 ber, A. D. 1890.