

SENATE FILE 2184  
BY TINSMAN

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to compulsory education.  
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 2184  
EDUCATION

1 Section 1. Section 299.1A, Code 2003, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 299.1A COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGE.

4 1. A child who has reached the age of ~~six~~ five and is  
5 under ~~sixteen~~ eighteen years of age by September 15 is of  
6 compulsory attendance age. However, if a child enrolled in a  
7 school district or accredited nonpublic school reaches the age  
8 of ~~sixteen~~ eighteen on or after September 15, the child  
9 remains of compulsory age until the end of the regular school  
10 calendar.

11 2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a student who is at least  
12 sixteen years of age, but who is less than eighteen years of  
13 age, may withdraw from school prior to graduation and shall  
14 not be considered of compulsory attendance age if both of the  
15 following conditions are met:

16 a. The student, the student's parent or guardian, and the  
17 principal of the student's school agree to the withdrawal.

18 b. An exit interview that meets the requirements of  
19 subsection 4 has been conducted.

20 3. The board of directors of a school district and the  
21 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school shall  
22 designate the appropriate employees of the school district or  
23 school to conduct the exit interviews for students in  
24 accordance with this section.

25 4. a. Each exit interview shall be personally attended by  
26 the following:

27 (1) The student's parent or guardian.

28 (2) The student.

29 (3) The designated appropriate school employee.

30 (4) The principal of the school in which the student is  
31 enrolled.

32 b. During the exit interview, the student shall provide  
33 written acknowledgment of the student's withdrawal from school  
34 and the student's parent or guardian and the school principal  
35 shall each provide written consent for the student to withdraw

1 from school.

2 5. The written acknowledgement of a student's withdrawal  
3 and written consents to such withdrawal under this section  
4 shall be maintained by the school district or accredited  
5 nonpublic school as part of the student's permanent record.

6 Sec. 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection  
7 3, shall not apply to this Act.

8 EXPLANATION

9 This bill expands the compulsory school attendance age from  
10 ages six to 16 to ages five to 18, but provides a process by  
11 which a person who is between the ages of 16 and 18 may  
12 withdraw from school and cease to be considered of compulsory  
13 age.

14 The bill permits a student between the ages of 16 and 18 to  
15 withdraw from school prior to graduation and not be considered  
16 of compulsory age if the student, the student's parent or  
17 guardian, and the student's principal agree to the withdrawal  
18 and participate in an exit interview, along with a person  
19 designated by the school district or nonpublic school. During  
20 the exit interview, the student must provide written  
21 acknowledgment of the student's withdrawal from school and the  
22 student's parent or guardian and the school principal must  
23 each provide written consent for the student to withdraw from  
24 school.

25 The bill requires school boards and the authorities in  
26 charge of accredited nonpublic schools to designate the  
27 appropriate employees of the school district or school to  
28 conduct the exit interviews.

29 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
30 section 25B.3. The bill makes inapplicable Code section  
31 25B.2, subsection 3, which would relieve a political  
32 subdivision from complying with a state mandate if funding for  
33 the cost of the state mandate is not provided or specified.  
34 Therefore, political subdivisions are required to comply with  
35 any state mandate included in the bill.