

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

2 BY BOLKCOM

3 A Concurrent Resolution requesting that the
4 legislative council establish an interim study
5 committee to review Iowa's truancy laws.

6 WHEREAS, students who are continually absent from
7 school and become truant are more likely to fail to
8 maintain academic pace with their peers and to be at
9 risk of dropping out of school; and

10 WHEREAS, research indicates that truancy is a
11 barrier to opportunities for future employment success
12 and contributes to involvement in drug use, daytime
13 crime, and violence; and

14 WHEREAS, much research has recently been conducted
15 to identify successful methods and programs for
16 reducing truancy rates; and

17 WHEREAS, a high school diploma is no longer a
18 guarantee of success in either postsecondary education
19 or the world of work and students must therefore not
20 only attend school but must excel in school; and

21 WHEREAS, a review of Iowa's truancy laws is
22 necessary in order to determine whether modifications
23 to the laws, based on new research relating to truancy
24 and truancy prevention, are warranted; NOW THEREFORE,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
26 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the legislative
27 council is requested to establish a legislative
28 interim study committee for the 2005 interim to review
29 Iowa's truancy laws; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the interim study

SCR 1 RULES & ADMINISTRATION

1 committee be directed to identify the consequences of
2 truancy, incentives that improve school attendance,
3 best practices for truancy prevention and reduction
4 efforts within Iowa, and best practices for truancy
5 prevention and reduction enacted by other states; to
6 develop a comprehensive definition of truancy; and to
7 address early intervention approaches involving
8 schools, parents, and the community, and involving
9 communications and relationships between the schools
10 and law enforcement and the judicial system; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the interim study
12 committee shall submit a report of its findings and
13 recommendations relating to Iowa's truancy laws to the
14 general assembly by January 15, 2006.

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