

**House File 204 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 204

BY KAJTAZOVIC

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the compulsory age of attendance, to  
2 penalties for failure to attend school, and to dropout  
3 prevention efforts.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 299.1A, subsection 1, Code 2013, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. Except as provided in subsection 2, a child who has  
4 reached the age of six and is under ~~sixteen~~ eighteen years  
5 of age by September 15 is of compulsory attendance age.  
6 However, if a child enrolled in a school district or accredited  
7 nonpublic school reaches the age of ~~sixteen~~ eighteen on or  
8 after September 15, the child remains of compulsory age until  
9 the end of the regular school calendar.

10 Sec. 2. Section 299.1B, Code 2013, is amended to read as  
11 follows:

12 **299.1B Failure to attend — driver's license.**

13 A person who is of compulsory attendance age, is not exempt  
14 under section 299.2, and does not attend a public school, an  
15 accredited nonpublic school, competent private instruction in  
16 accordance with the provisions of chapter 299A, an alternative  
17 school, or adult education classes shall not receive an  
18 intermediate or full driver's license until age eighteen.

19 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **299.14 School district dropout**  
20 **prevention measures.**

21 1. The board of directors of each school district shall  
22 take every opportunity to prevent students from dropping out of  
23 school. Actions which a school district may take to prevent  
24 students from dropping out of school include but are not  
25 limited to general education interventions, alternative program  
26 placement, alternative school placement, provision of support  
27 and supplemental services, individual and family intervention  
28 or therapy, truancy mediation, and coordination with other  
29 student support services.

30 2. In addition to meeting the budget requirements of section  
31 257.41, the board of directors of each school district shall  
32 make every effort to align and maximize all of the funding  
33 streams that may be used to support students who are at risk of  
34 dropping out of school.

35 Sec. 4. Section 321.213B, Code 2013, is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 **321.213B Suspension for failure to attend.**

3 1. The department shall establish procedures by rule for  
4 suspending the license of a juvenile who has been issued a  
5 driver's license and is not in compliance with the requirements  
6 of section 299.1B or issuing the juvenile a restricted license  
7 under section 321.178.

8 2. Upon receipt of proof of high school graduation from  
9 a person whose intermediate or full driver's license was  
10 suspended or revoked pursuant to section 299.1B, the department  
11 may reinstate the person's license. Notwithstanding section  
12 321.191, subsection 8, the fee for reinstatement of a license  
13 pursuant to this subsection shall be twenty-five dollars.

14 Sec. 5. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
15 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
16 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
17 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
18 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
19 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
20 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of  
21 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding  
22 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act  
23 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school  
24 districts.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This bill relates to compulsory education standards,  
27 penalties, and dropout prevention efforts.

28 The bill raises the compulsory school attendance age from 16  
29 to 18. Each school district must make every effort to prevent  
30 students from dropping out of school, and is directed to align  
31 and maximize all of the funding streams that may be used to  
32 support students who are at risk of dropping out of school.

33 The department of transportation is directed to reinstate,  
34 upon receipt of proof of high school graduation from a person  
35 whose intermediate or full driver's license was suspended or

1 revoked because the person was truant, the person's license for  
2 a fee of \$25, notwithstanding a current Code provision that  
3 permits the department to charge a fee of \$20 for reinstatement  
4 of a license. The bill makes a technical change to specify  
5 that the current Code provision which prohibits licensure for  
6 failure to attend school or classes applies only to persons who  
7 are not exempt from the provision establishing the compulsory  
8 attendance age.

9 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
10 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
11 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
12 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
13 school district under section 257.16. The specification is  
14 deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
15 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
16 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
17 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
18 mandates included in the bill.