

House File 2198 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2198

BY MOHR

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the open enrollment of truant pupils.

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

1 Section 1. Section 282.18, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
2 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. The board of the receiving district shall enroll
4 the pupil in a school in the receiving district unless the
5 receiving district has insufficient classroom space for the
6 pupil or unless the receiving district has prohibited the
7 pupil from enrolling pursuant to subsection 11A. The board of
8 directors of a receiving district may adopt a policy granting
9 the superintendent of the school district authority to approve
10 open enrollment applications. If the request is granted,
11 the board shall transmit a copy of the form to the parent
12 or guardian and the school district of residence within five
13 days after board action. The parent or guardian may withdraw
14 the request at any time prior to the board's action on the
15 application. A denial of a request by the board of a receiving
16 district is not subject to appeal.

17 Sec. 2. Section 282.18, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 11A. a. If a pupil participating in open
20 enrollment is truant as defined in section 299.8, the receiving
21 district may prohibit the pupil from remaining enrolled in the
22 receiving district and from enrolling in the receiving district
23 in the future. A receiving district shall send notification of
24 the receiving district's decision to prohibit the pupil from
25 remaining enrolled in the receiving district pursuant to this
26 paragraph to the pupil's parent or guardian and to the pupil's
27 sending district.

28 b. The sending district shall enroll the pupil who is
29 prohibited from remaining enrolled in the receiving district
30 pursuant to paragraph "a".

31 c. This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit the
32 pupil's parent or guardian from filing a request to transfer
33 pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph "a", subsequent to the
34 receiving district's decision to prohibit the pupil from
35 remaining enrolled in the receiving district.

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EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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4 This bill relates to the open enrollment of truant pupils.

5 The bill provides that, if a pupil participating in open
6 enrollment is truant, the receiving district may prohibit the
7 pupil from remaining enrolled in the receiving district and
8 from enrolling in the receiving district in the future. The
9 bill requires the receiving district to send notification of
10 the receiving district's decision to prohibit the pupil from
11 remaining enrolled to the pupil's parent or guardian and to
12 the pupil's sending district. Additionally, the bill requires
13 the sending district to enroll the pupil. The bill does
14 not prohibit such a pupil's parent or guardian from filing a
15 request to open enroll in the future.

16 The bill defines "truant" as any child of compulsory
17 attendance age who fails to attend school as provided in Code
18 chapter 299 (compulsory education), or as required by the
19 school board's attendance policy, without reasonable excuse for
20 the absence.