

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Increasing the compulsory attendance age

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Overview

Requires students under age 7 who enroll in school to remain in school and students to stay in school through age 18 or graduation, whichever comes first. Also directs home school parents to report on providing instruction to students between ages 7 and 16.

Section

- 1** **Ages and terms. (a)** Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year and later, requires every student between the ages of 7, or upon enrolling in 1st grade if younger than 7, and 18, instead of 16, to receive instruction unless the student completes graduation requirements before age 18. Strikes language allowing parents to withdraw a child under age 7 who is enrolled in school. Makes this section effective for the 2009-2010 school year and later.
- 2** **Children under seven. (a)** Subjects a child under age 7 who enrolls in 1st grade subject to the compulsory attendance law unless the local school board adopts a different policy or paragraph (b) applies.
 - (b) Excludes from the compulsory attendance law a kindergarten student under age 7 whose parent, after notifying the school district, withdraws the student or a 1st grade student under age 7 whose parent, after notifying the school district, enrolls the student in a nonpublic school.
 - (c) Strikes language allowing a parent to withdraw a student for good cause.
 - (d) Strikes language requiring a school official to provide a written explanation of the compulsory attendance law to a parent enrolling a child.
 - (e) Strikes language exempting a withdrawn child under age 7 from the compulsory attendance law.Makes this section effective for the 2009-2010 school year and later.

- 3 Reports to superintendent.** Requires parents to report on providing instruction to home school students between the ages of 7 and 16.

Makes this section effective for the 2012-2013 school year and later.

- 4 Habitual truant.** Defines truancy in terms of the number of unexcused absences on a per school year basis: 7 school days per school year for elementary school students; and one or more class periods on 7 school days per school year for middle, junior, and senior high school students. Strikes language including as a truant those students ages 16 and 17 who have 7 unexcused absences and have not formally withdrawn from school.

- 5 Repealer.** Repeals effective for the 2012-2013 school year and later the provision (MS, section 120A.22, subdivision 8) allowing students ages 16 and 17 to withdraw from school.