

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 554 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: H3/13/19
A Bill

SENATE BILL 250

By: Senator A. Clark
By: Representative Burch

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL
NEGLECT; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING REPORTS OF
EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT MADE TO THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL
NEGLECT; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING
REPORTS OF EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT MADE TO
THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-27-303(36)(A)(ix), concerning the definition of "neglect" and other definitions applicable to the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, is amended to read as follows:

(ix)(a) Failure to ensure a child between six (6) years of age and seventeen (17) years of age is enrolled in school or is being legally home-schooled; or

(b) As a result of ~~the acts or omissions~~ an act or omission by the ~~juvenile's~~ parent, custodian, or guardian of a child, the ~~juvenile~~ child is habitually and without justification absent from school.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-18-103(14)(A)(viii) and (ix), concerning the definition of "neglect" and other definitions applicable to the Child



Maltreatment Act, are amended to read as follows:

(viii) Failure to appropriately supervise the child that results in the child's being placed in:

(a) Inappropriate circumstances creating a dangerous situation; or

(b) A situation that puts the child at risk of harm; ~~or~~

(ix) Failure to ensure a child between six (6) years of age and seventeen (17) years of age is enrolled in school or is being legally ~~home-schooled~~ home-schooled; or

~~(x) as a result of an~~ An act or omission by the ~~child's parent, custodian, or guardian of the child, that results in~~ the child ~~is~~ being habitually and without justification absent from school.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 12-18-304(g), concerning when the Child Abuse Hotline must accept a call concerning educational neglect, is amended to read as follows:

(g) The Child Abuse Hotline shall accept ~~each call~~ a report regarding educational neglect, ~~if the:~~

(1) Report alleges that a parent, custodian, or guardian of a child who is at least (6) years of age and under eighteen (18) years of age failed to enroll the child in school and lawfully home-school the child; or

(2) Report alleges that:

(A) An act or omission of a parent, custodian, or guardian of a child who is at least six (6) years of age and under eighteen (18) years of age caused the child to be absent from school;

(B) The child's absence from school was not caused by the refusal of the child to attend school;

(C) The child has been habitually absent from school without justification; and

(D) The child's absence from school has had a negative impact on the child's performance at school.

/s/A. Clark

APPROVED: 3/26/19