
HOUSE BILL 2848

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Orwall, Kilduff, Jenkins, Rodne, Goodman,
Appleton, Haler, Kagi, Eslick, and Slatter

Read first time 01/18/18. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to school and court processes to promote
2 attendance and reduce truancy; adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.185C RCW; and
4 creating a new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature continues to
7 recognize, as it has in recent legislation, that school attendance
8 really matters, and that poor school attendance can have far-reaching
9 effects on academic performance and achievement, development of
10 social skills and school engagement, dropout rates, and even college
11 completion rates. In light of recent reports and recommendations that
12 have been received by the legislature as a result of that
13 legislation, from the educational opportunity gap oversight and
14 accountability committee and from the Washington state center for
15 court research, the legislature intends to make certain changes to
16 enhance the court-based and school-based efforts to promote
17 attendance and reduce truancy.

18 (2)(a) The legislature finds that the educational opportunity gap
19 oversight and accountability committee reviewed community truancy
20 board training materials and the Washington assessment of the risks

1 and needs of students to develop recommendations, required by chapter
2 205, Laws of 2016, related to:

3 (i) The cultural competency training that community truancy board
4 members, as well as others involved in the truancy process, should
5 receive;

6 (ii) Best practices for supporting and facilitating parent and
7 community involvement and outreach; and

8 (iii) The cultural relevance of the assessments employed to
9 identify barriers to attendance and the treatments and tools provided
10 to children and their families.

11 (b) The legislature recognizes that some of the recommendations
12 can be implemented without legislative action and that, for example,
13 there is ongoing work with respect to the Washington assessment of
14 the risks and needs of students tool and other assessment tools that
15 should address recommendations made in these regards. Other
16 recommendations, meanwhile, require legislative action. At this time,
17 the legislature intends to require each member of a school district
18 that has a community truancy board to: (i) Participate in any trauma-
19 informed training provided to community truancy board members; and
20 (ii) attend at least one community truancy board meeting per school
21 year.

22 (3) The legislature finds that the Washington state center for
23 court research has issued the inaugural detention report in response
24 to chapter 205, Laws of 2016, which shows a clear difference between
25 counties with respect to the use of detention for nonoffender
26 matters, including for truancy, and further shows that in many cases
27 detention for nonoffender matters is being served in juvenile
28 detention facilities. The legislature further finds that chapter 291,
29 Laws of 2017, imposed restrictions upon the use of detention,
30 providing that only if a child fails to comply with a court order
31 issued in a truancy matter, and the court tries other measures to
32 secure compliance, and the court makes a finding that other measures
33 to secure compliance have been tried but not been successful, and no
34 less restrictive alternative is available, may the court order
35 detention. In the future, the legislature intends to further restrict
36 the use of, or end altogether, detention in nonoffender matters such
37 as truancy. At this time, the legislature intends, subject to the
38 availability of funds, to provide for more therapeutic secure crisis
39 residential centers that are accessible and available for use by all
40 counties, but particularly those counties that appear from the

1 detention report to frequently use detention for nonoffender matters
2 such as truancy.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 If a school district is required, under RCW 28A.225.026, to enter
6 into a memorandum of understanding with a juvenile court with respect
7 to the operation of a community truancy board, each member of the
8 school district board of directors must:

9 (1) Participate in any trauma-informed training provided to
10 community truancy board members; and

11 (2) Attend at least one community truancy board meeting per
12 school year.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 Subject to the availability of funds, the office of homeless
16 youth prevention and protection must, in collaboration with the
17 Washington association of juvenile court administrators, and with
18 data provided by the Washington state center for court research,
19 regionally site secure crisis residential centers that meet
20 therapeutic standards so as to make these centers accessible and
21 available for use by all counties. The initial focus must be on those
22 counties that appear from the detention report to frequently use
23 detention for nonoffender matters such as truancy and which do not
24 have secure crisis residential centers that meet therapeutic
25 standards within geographic proximity.

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