
SENATE BILL 6216

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senator Roach

Read first time 01/22/92. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to compulsory school education; amending RCW
2 28A.225.020, 28A.225.030, 28A.225.090, and 28A.225.150; and adding a
3 new section to chapter 28A.225 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.225
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 Each school within a school district shall inform the students and
8 the parents of the students enrolled in the school about the compulsory
9 education requirements under this chapter. The school shall distribute
10 the information at least annually.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.225.020 and 1986 c 132 s 2 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

1 If a juvenile required to attend school under the laws of the state
2 of Washington fails to attend school without valid justification
3 (~~recurrently or for an extended period of time~~), the juvenile's
4 school(~~, where appropriate,~~) shall:

5 (1) Inform the juvenile's custodial parent, parents or guardian by
6 a notice in writing in English and, if different, in the primary
7 language of the custodial parent, parents or guardian and by other
8 means reasonably necessary to achieve notice of the fact that the
9 juvenile has failed to attend school without valid justification
10 (~~recurrently or for an extended period of time~~) after one unexcused
11 absence;

12 (2) Schedule a conference or conferences with the custodial parent,
13 parents or guardian and juvenile at a time and place reasonably
14 convenient for all persons included for the purpose of analyzing the
15 causes of the juvenile's absences after two unexcused absences; and

16 (3) Take steps to eliminate or reduce the juvenile's absences.
17 These steps shall include, where appropriate, adjusting the juvenile's
18 school program or school or course assignment, providing more
19 individualized or remedial instruction, preparing the juvenile for
20 employment with specific vocational courses or work experience, or
21 both, and assisting the parent or student to obtain supplementary
22 services that might eliminate or ameliorate the cause or causes for the
23 absence from school.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.225.030 and 1990 c 33 s 220 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 If action taken by a school pursuant to RCW 28A.225.020 is not
27 successful in substantially reducing a student's absences from school,
28 any of the following actions may be taken after five or more unexcused
29 absences: (1) The attendance officer of the school district through

1 its attorney may petition the juvenile court to assume jurisdiction
2 under RCW 28A.200.010, 28A.200.020, and 28A.225.010 through 28A.225.150
3 for the purpose of alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010 by the
4 parent; or (2) a petition alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010 by a
5 child may be filed with the juvenile court by the parent of such child
6 or by the attendance officer of the school district through its
7 attorney at the request of the parent. If the court assumes
8 jurisdiction in such an instance, the provisions of RCW 28A.200.010,
9 28A.200.020, and 28A.225.010 through 28A.225.150, except where
10 otherwise stated, shall apply.

11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.225.090 and 1990 c 33 s 226 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Any person violating any of the provisions of either RCW
14 28A.225.010 or 28A.225.080 shall be fined not more than twenty-five
15 dollars for each day of unexcused absence from school. However, a
16 child found to be in violation of RCW 28A.225.010 shall be required to
17 attend school and shall not be fined. If the child fails to comply
18 with the court order to attend school, the court may order the child be
19 punished by detention or may impose alternatives to detention such as
20 community service hours or participation in dropout prevention
21 programs. Failure by a child to comply with an order issued under this
22 section shall not be punishable by detention for a period greater than
23 that permitted pursuant to a contempt proceeding against a child under
24 chapter 13.32A RCW. It shall be a defense for a parent charged with
25 violating RCW 28A.225.010 to show that he or she exercised reasonable
26 diligence in attempting to cause a child in his or her custody to
27 attend school or that the juvenile's school did not perform its duties
28 as required in RCW 28A.225.020. Any fine imposed pursuant to this
29 section may be suspended upon the condition that a parent charged with

1 violating RCW 28A.225.010 shall participate with the school and the
2 juvenile in a supervised plan for the juvenile's attendance at school
3 or upon condition that the parent attend a conference or conferences
4 scheduled by a school for the purpose of analyzing the causes of a
5 child's absence.

6 Attendance officers shall make complaint for violation of the
7 provisions of RCW 28A.225.010 through 28A.225.140 to a judge of the
8 superior or district court.

9 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.225.150 and 1990 c 33 s 232 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 The school district attendance officer shall report biannually to
12 the educational service district superintendent, in the instance of
13 petitions filed alleging a violation by a child under RCW 28A.225.030:

14 (1) The number of petitions filed by a school district or by a
15 parent;

16 (2) The frequency of each action taken under RCW 28A.225.020 prior
17 to the filing of such petition;

18 (3) When deemed appropriate under RCW 28A.225.020, the frequency of
19 delivery of supplemental services; and

20 (4) Disposition of cases filed with the juvenile court, including
21 the frequency of contempt orders issued to enforce a court's order
22 under RCW 28A.225.090.

23 The educational service district superintendent shall compile such
24 information and report annually to the superintendent of public
25 instruction. The superintendent of public instruction shall compile
26 such information and report to the committees of the house of
27 representatives and the senate by (~~January 1, 1988~~) September 1 of
28 each year.