CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1170

Chapter 291, Laws of 2017

65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

TRUANCY--VARIOUS CHANGES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/23/2017

Passed by the House April 17, 2017 Yeas 95 Nays 3

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2017 Yeas 47 Nays 2

CYRUS HABIB

President of the Senate

Approved May 16, 2017 10:08 AM

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1170** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 16, 2017

JAY INSLEE

Secretary of State State of Washington

Governor of the State of Washington

SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1170

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2017 Regular Session

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Orwall, Goodman, Kilduff, Rodne, Muri, Jinkins, Fey, Pollet, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/17.

- AN ACT Relating to maintaining and facilitating court-based and school-based efforts to promote attendance and reduce truancy; amending RCW 28A.225.015, 28A.225.020, 28A.225.025, 28A.225.026, 28A.225.090, 28A.225.030, 28A.225.151, and 28A.250.070; adding a new section to chapter 28A.232 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW 28A.225.115.
- 7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 8 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.225.015 and 1999 c 319 s 6 are each amended to 9 read as follows:
- (1) If a parent enrolls a child who is six or seven years of age 10 11 in a public school, the child is required to attend and that parent 12 has the responsibility to ensure the child attends for the full time 13 that school is in session. An exception shall be made to this 14 requirement for children whose parents formally remove them from enrollment if the child is less than eight years old and a petition 15 16 has not been filed against the parent under subsection (3) of this 17 section. The requirement to attend school under this subsection does not apply to a child enrolled in a public school part-time for the 18 purpose of receiving ancillary services. A child required to attend 19 20 school under this subsection may be temporarily excused upon the

request of his or her parent for purposes agreed upon by the school district and parent.

- (2) If a six or seven year old child is required to attend public school under subsection (1) of this section and that child has unexcused absences, the public school in which the child is enrolled shall:
- (a) Inform the child's custodial parent, parents, or guardian by a notice in writing or by telephone whenever the child has failed to attend school after one unexcused absence within any month during the current school year;
- (b) Request a conference or conferences with the custodial parent, parents, or guardian and child at a time reasonably convenient for all persons included for the purpose of analyzing the causes of the child's absences after ((two)) three unexcused absences within any month during the current school year. If a regularly scheduled parent-teacher conference day is to take place within thirty days of the ((second)) third unexcused absence, then the school district may schedule this conference on that day; and
- (c) Take steps to eliminate or reduce the child's absences. These steps shall include, where appropriate, adjusting the child's school program or school or course assignment, providing more individualized or remedial instruction, offering assistance in enrolling the child in available alternative schools or programs, or assisting the parent or child to obtain supplementary services that may help eliminate or ameliorate the cause or causes for the absence from school.
- (3) If a child required to attend public school under subsection (1) of this section has seven unexcused absences in a month or ten unexcused absences in a school year, the school district shall file a petition for civil action as provided in RCW 28A.225.035 against the parent of the child.
- 31 (4) This section does not require a six or seven year old child 32 to enroll in a public or private school or to receive home-based 33 instruction. This section only applies to six or seven year old 34 children whose parents enroll them full time in public school and do 35 not formally remove them from enrollment as provided in subsection 36 (1) of this section.
- **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.225.020 and 2016 c 205 s 4 are each amended to 38 read as follows:

(1) If a child required to attend school under RCW 28A.225.010 fails to attend school without valid justification, the public school in which the child is enrolled shall:

- (a) Inform the child's parent by a notice in writing or by telephone whenever the child has failed to attend school after one unexcused absence within any month during the current school year. School officials shall inform the parent of the potential consequences of additional unexcused absences. If the parent is not fluent in English, the school must make reasonable efforts to provide this information in a language in which the parent is fluent;
- (b) Schedule a conference or conferences with the parent and child at a time reasonably convenient for all persons included for the purpose of analyzing the causes of the child's absences after ((two)) three unexcused absences within any month during the current school year. If a regularly scheduled parent-teacher conference day is to take place within thirty days of the ((second)) third unexcused absence, then the school district may schedule this conference on that day. If the child's parent does not attend the scheduled conference, the conference may be conducted with the student and school official. However the parent shall be notified of the steps to be taken to eliminate or reduce the child's absence; and
 - (c) At some point after the second and before the fifth unexcused absence, take data-informed steps to eliminate or reduce the child's absences.
 - (i) In middle school and high school, these steps ((shall)) must include application of the Washington assessment of the risks and needs of students (WARNS) or other assessment by a school district's designee under RCW 28A.225.026((, and)).
- (ii) For any child with an existing individualized education plan or 504 plan, these steps must include the convening of the child's individualized education plan or 504 plan team, including a behavior specialist or mental health specialist where appropriate, to consider the reasons for the absences. If necessary, and if consent from the parent is given, a functional behavior assessment to explore the function of the absence behavior shall be conducted and a detailed behavior plan completed. Time should be allowed for the behavior plan to be initiated and data tracked to determine progress.
- (iii) With respect to any child, without an existing individualized education plan or 504 plan, reasonably believed to have a mental or physical disability or impairment, these steps must

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include informing the child's parent of the right to obtain an appropriate evaluation at no cost to the parent to determine whether the child has a disability or impairment and needs accommodations, related services, or special education services. This includes children with suspected emotional or behavioral disabilities as defined in WAC 392-172A-01035. If the school obtains consent to conduct an evaluation, time should be allowed for the evaluation to be completed, and if the child is found to be eligible for special education services, accommodations, or related services, a plan developed to address the child's needs.

- (iv) These steps must include, where appropriate, providing an available approved best practice or research-based intervention, or both, consistent with the WARNS profile or other assessment, if an assessment was applied, adjusting the child's school program or school or course assignment, providing more individualized or remedial instruction, providing appropriate vocational courses or work experience, referring the child to a community truancy board, requiring the child to attend an alternative school or program, or assisting the parent or child to obtain supplementary services that might eliminate or ameliorate the cause or causes for the absence from school. ((If the child's parent does not attend the scheduled conference, the conference may be conducted with the student and school official. However, the parent shall be notified of the steps to be taken to eliminate or reduce the child's absence.))
 - (2) For purposes of this chapter, an "unexcused absence" means that a child:
 - (a)(i) Has failed to attend the majority of hours or periods in an average school day or has failed to comply with a more restrictive school district policy; and
- $((\frac{b}{b}))$ (ii) Has failed to meet the school district's policy for 31 excused absences; or
- 32 <u>(b) Has failed to comply with alternative learning experience</u> 33 <u>program attendance requirements as described by the superintendent of</u> 34 <u>public instruction</u>.
 - (3) If a child transfers from one school district to another during the school year, the receiving school or school district shall include the unexcused absences accumulated at the previous school or from the previous school district for purposes of this section, RCW 28A.225.030, and 28A.225.015. The sending school district shall provide this information to the receiving school, together with a

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1 copy of any previous assessment as required under subsection (1)(c) of this section, history of any best practices or researched-based 2 intervention previously provided to the child by the child's sending 3 school district, and a copy of the most recent truancy information 4 including any online or written acknowledgment by the parent and 5 6 child, as provided for in RCW 28A.225.005. All school districts must use the standard choice transfer form for releasing a student to a 7 nonresident school district for the purposes of accessing an 8 alternative learning experience program. 9

Sec. 3. RCW 28A.225.025 and 2016 c 205 s 5 are each amended to read as follows:

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- (1) For purposes of this chapter, "community truancy board" means 12 13 a board established pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between a juvenile court and a school district and composed of members of the 14 15 local community in which the child attends school. ((All members of 16 a)) Community truancy boards must include members who 17 training regarding the identification of barriers to school attendance, the use of the Washington assessment of the risks and 18 needs of students (WARNS) or other assessment tools to identify the 19 individual children, <u>cultural responsive</u> 20 needs of 21 interactions, trauma-informed approaches to discipline, evidencebased treatments that have been found effective in supporting at-risk 22 youth and their families, and the specific services and treatment 23 24 available in the particular school, court, community, and elsewhere. 25 Duties of a community truancy board shall include, but not be limited to: Identifying barriers to school attendance, recommending methods 26 27 for improving attendance such as connecting students and their families with community services, culturally appropriate promising 28 practices, and evidence-based services such as functional family 29 30 therapy((, multisystemic therapy, and aggression replacement training)), suggesting to the school district that the child enroll 31 in another school, an alternative education program, an education 32 center, a skill center, a dropout prevention program, or another 33 public or private educational program, or recommending to the 34 35 juvenile court that a juvenile be ((referred to)) offered the opportunity for placement in a HOPE center or crisis residential 36 center, if appropriate. 37
- 38 (2) The legislature finds that utilization of community truancy 39 boards is the preferred means of intervention when preliminary

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- 1 methods to eliminate or reduce unexcused absences as required by RCW
- 2 28A.225.020 have not been effective in securing the child's
- 3 attendance at school. The legislature intends to encourage and
- 4 support the development and expansion of community truancy boards.
- 5 Operation of a school truancy board does not excuse a district from
- 6 the obligation of filing a petition within the requirements of RCW
- 7 28A.225.015(3).

- **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.225.026 and 2016 c 205 s 6 are each amended to 9 read as follows:
 - (1) By the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, juvenile courts must establish, through a memorandum of understanding with each school district within their respective counties, a coordinated and collaborative approach to address truancy through the establishment of a community truancy board or, with respect to certain small districts, through other means as provided in subsection (3) of this section.
 - (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, each school district must enter into a memorandum of understanding with the juvenile court in the county in which it is located with respect to the operation of a community truancy board. A community truancy board may be operated by a juvenile court, a school district, or a collaboration between both entities, so long as the agreement is memorialized in a memorandum of understanding. For a school district that is located in more than one county, the memorandum of understanding shall be with the juvenile court in the county that acts as the school district's treasurer.
 - (3) A school district with fewer than ((two)) three hundred students must enter into a memorandum of understanding with the juvenile court in the county in which it is located with respect to:
 (a) The operation of a community truancy board; or (b) addressing truancy through other coordinated means of intervention aimed at identifying barriers to school attendance, and connecting students and their families with community services, culturally appropriate promising practices, and evidence-based services such as functional family therapy((, multisystemic therapy, and aggression replacement training)). School districts with fewer than ((two)) three hundred students may work cooperatively with other school districts or the school district's educational service district to ensure access to a

1 community truancy board or to provide other coordinated means of 2 intervention.

- (4) All school districts must designate, and identify to the local juvenile court and to the office of the superintendent of public instruction, a person or persons to coordinate school district efforts to address excessive absenteeism and truancy, including tasks associated with: Outreach and conferences pursuant to RCW 28A.225.018; entering into a memorandum of understanding with the juvenile court; establishing protocols and procedures with the court; coordinating trainings; sharing evidence-based and culturally appropriate promising practices; identifying a person within every school to serve as a contact with respect to excessive absenteeism and truancy; and assisting in the recruitment of community truancy board members.
- (5) As has been demonstrated by school districts and county juvenile courts around the state that have worked together and led the way with community truancy boards, success has resulted from involving the entire community and leveraging existing dollars from a variety of sources, including public and private, local and state, and court, school, and community. In emulating this coordinated and collaborative approach statewide pursuant to local memoranda of understanding, courts and school districts are encouraged to create strong community-wide partnerships and to leverage existing dollars and resources.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.225.090 and 2016 c 205 s 9 are each amended to 26 read as follows:
- 27 (1) A court may order a child subject to a petition under RCW 28 28A.225.035 to do one or more of the following:
- 29 (a) Attend the child's current school, and set forth minimum 30 attendance requirements, which shall not consider a suspension day as 31 an unexcused absence;
 - (b) If there is space available and the program can provide educational services appropriate for the child, order the child to attend another public school, an alternative education program, center, a skill center, dropout prevention program, or another public educational program;
- 37 (c) Attend a private nonsectarian school or program including an 38 education center. Before ordering a child to attend an approved or 39 certified private nonsectarian school or program, the court shall:

- 1 (i) Consider the public and private programs available; (ii) find that placement is in the best interest of the child; and (iii) find 2 that the private school or program is willing to accept the child and 3 will not charge any fees in addition to those established by contract 4 with the student's school district. If the court orders the child to 5 6 enroll in a private school or program, the child's school district 7 shall contract with the school or program to provide educational services for the child. The school district shall not be required to 8 for a weekly rate that 9 exceeds the state apportionment dollars calculated on a weekly basis generated by the 10 11 child and received by the district. A school district shall not be required to enter into a contract that is longer than the remainder 12 of the school year. A school district shall not be required to enter 13 14 into or continue a contract if the child is no longer enrolled in the district; 15
 - (d) Submit to a substance abuse assessment if the court finds on the record that such assessment is appropriate to the circumstances and behavior of the child and will facilitate the child's compliance with the mandatory attendance law and, if any assessment, including a urinalysis test ordered under this subsection indicates the use of controlled substances or alcohol, order the minor to abstain from the unlawful consumption of controlled substances or alcohol and adhere to the recommendations of the substance abuse assessment at no expense to the school; or
 - (e) Submit to a mental health evaluation or other diagnostic evaluation and adhere to the recommendations of the drug assessment, at no expense to the school, if the court finds on the court records that such evaluation is appropriate to the circumstances and behavior of the child, and will facilitate the child's compliance with the mandatory attendance law((\div or
 - (f) Submit to a temporary placement in a crisis residential center or a HOPE center if the court determines there is an immediate health and safety concern, or a family conflict with the need for mediation)).
- 35 (2)(a) If the child fails to comply with the court order, the 36 court may impose:
- 37 (i) Community restitution;

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- 38 (ii) Nonresidential programs with intensive wraparound services;
- 39 <u>(iii) A requirement that the child meet with a mentor for a</u> 40 specified number of times; or

- 1 <u>(iv) Other services and interventions that the court deems</u>
 2 <u>appropriate.</u>
- 3 (b) If the child continues to fail((s)) to comply with the court order and the court makes a finding that other measures to secure 4 compliance have been tried but have been unsuccessful and no less 5 6 restrictive alternative is available, the court may order the child to be subject to detention, as provided in RCW 7.21.030(2)(e)((, or 7 may impose alternatives to detention such as community restitution)). 8 Failure by a child to comply with an order issued under this 9 subsection shall not be subject to detention for a period greater 10 11 than that permitted pursuant to a civil contempt proceeding against a 12 child under chapter 13.32A RCW. Detention ordered under this subsection may be for no longer than seven days. Detention ordered 13 under this subsection shall preferably be served at a secure crisis 14 residential center close to the child's home rather than in a 15 juvenile detention facility. A warrant of arrest for a child under 16 17 this subsection may not be served on a child inside of school during school hours in a location where other students are present. 18

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- (3) Any parent violating any of the provisions of either RCW 28A.225.010, 28A.225.015, or 28A.225.080 shall be fined not more than twenty-five dollars for each day of unexcused absence from school. The court shall remit fifty percent of the fine collected under this section to the child's school district. It shall be a defense for a parent charged with violating RCW 28A.225.010 to show that he or she exercised reasonable diligence in attempting to cause a child in his or her custody to attend school or that the child's school did not perform its duties as required in RCW 28A.225.020. The court may order the parent to provide community restitution instead of imposing a fine. Any fine imposed pursuant to this section may be suspended upon the condition that a parent charged with violating RCW 28A.225.010 shall participate with the school and the child in a supervised plan for the child's attendance at school or condition that the parent attend a conference or conferences scheduled by a school for the purpose of analyzing the causes of a child's absence.
- (4) If a child continues to be truant after entering into a court-approved order with the truancy board under RCW 28A.225.035, the juvenile court shall find the child in contempt, and the court may order the child to be subject to detention, as provided in RCW 7.21.030(2)(e), or may impose alternatives to detention such as

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- meaningful community restitution. Failure by a child to comply with an order issued under this subsection may not subject a child to detention for a period greater than that permitted under a civil contempt proceeding against a child under chapter 13.32A RCW.
- 5 (5) Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of this section shall not apply 6 to a six or seven year old child required to attend public school 7 under RCW 28A.225.015.
- 8 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.225.030 and 2016 c 205 s 7 are each amended to 9 read as follows:
- 10 (1) If a child under the age of seventeen is required to attend 11 school under RCW 28A.225.010 and if the actions taken by a school district under RCW 28A.225.020 are not successful in substantially 12 reducing an enrolled student's absences from public school, not later 13 than the seventh unexcused absence by a child within any month during 14 15 the current school year or not later than the tenth unexcused absence 16 during the current school year the school district shall file a 17 petition and supporting affidavit for a civil action with the juvenile court alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010: (a) By the 18 parent; (b) by the child; or (c) by the parent and the child. The 19 20 petition must include a list of all interventions that have been attempted as set forth in RCW 28A.225.020, include a copy of any 21 previous truancy assessment completed by the child's current school 22 district, the history of approved best practices intervention or 23 24 research-based intervention previously provided to the child by the 25 child's current school district, and a copy of the most recent truancy information document ((signed by the parent and child)) 26 27 provided to the parent, pursuant to RCW 28A.225.005. Except as provided in this subsection, no additional documents need be filed 28 with the petition. Nothing in this subsection requires court 29 30 jurisdiction to terminate when a child turns seventeen or precludes a school district from filing a petition for a child that is seventeen 31 years of age. 32
- 33 (2) The district shall not later than the fifth unexcused absence in a month:
- 35 (a) Enter into an agreement with a student and parent that 36 establishes school attendance requirements;
- 37 (b) Refer a student to a community truancy board as defined in 38 RCW 28A.225.025. The community truancy board shall enter into an 39 agreement with the student and parent that establishes school

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- 1 attendance requirements and take other appropriate actions to reduce 2 the child's absences; or
 - (c) File a petition under subsection (1) of this section.

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- (3) The petition may be filed by a school district employee who is not an attorney.
- (4) If the school district fails to file a petition under this section, the parent of a child with five or more unexcused absences in any month during the current school year or upon the tenth unexcused absence during the current school year may file a petition with the juvenile court alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010.
- 11 (5) Petitions filed under this section may be served by certified 12 mail, return receipt requested. If such service is unsuccessful, or 13 the return receipt is not signed by the addressee, personal service 14 is required.
- 15 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28A.225.151 and 1996 c 134 s 5 are each amended to 16 read as follows:
 - (1) As required under subsection (2) of this section, ((each school shall document the actions taken under RCW 28A.225.030 and report this information to the school district superintendent who shall compile the data for all the schools in the district and prepare an annual school district report for each school year and submit the report to the superintendent of public instruction. The reports shall be made upon forms furnished by the superintendent of public instruction and shall be transmitted as determined by the superintendent of public instruction shall collect and school districts shall submit student-level truancy data in order to allow a better understanding of actions taken under RCW 28A.225.030. The office shall prepare an annual report to the legislature by December 15th of each year.
- 30 (2) The reports under subsection (1) of this section shall include, disaggregated by student group:
- 32 (a) The number of enrolled students and the number of unexcused 33 absences;
 - (b) ((Documentation of the steps taken by the school district under each subsection of RCW 28A.225.020 at the request of the superintendent of public instruction. Each year, by May 1st, the superintendent of public instruction shall select ten school districts to submit the report at the end of the following school year. The ten districts shall represent different areas of the state

- and be of varied sizes. In addition, the superintendent of public instruction shall require any district that fails to keep appropriate records to submit a full report to the superintendent of public instruction under this subsection. All school districts shall document steps taken under RCW 28A.225.020 in each student's record, and make those records available upon request consistent with the laws governing student records;
 - (e))) The number of enrolled students with ten or more unexcused absences in a school year or five or more unexcused absences in a month during a school year;
 - (((d))) <u>(c)</u> A description of any programs or schools developed to serve students who have had five or more unexcused absences in a month or ten in a year including information about the number of students in the program or school and the number of unexcused absences of students during and after participation in the program. The school district shall also describe any placements in an approved private nonsectarian school or program or certified program under a court order under RCW 28A.225.090; ((and
- (e))) (d) The number of petitions filed by a school district with the juvenile court and, beginning in the 2018-19 school year, whether the petition results in:
 - (i) Referral to a community truancy board;
- (ii) Other coordinated means of intervention;
 - (iii) A hearing in the juvenile court; or

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- 25 <u>(iv) Other less restrictive disposition (e.g., change of</u> 26 <u>placement, home school, alternative learning experience, residential</u> 27 <u>treatment); and</u>
 - (e) Each instance of imposition of detention for failure to comply with a court order under RCW 28A.225.090, with a statement of the reasons for each instance of detention.
- 31 (3) A report required under this section shall not disclose the 32 name or other identification of a child or parent.
- (4) ((The superintendent of public instruction shall collect these reports from all school districts and prepare an annual report for each school year to be submitted to the legislature no later than December 15th of each year.)) The K-12 data governance group shall develop the data protocols and guidance for school districts in the collection of data to provide a clearer understanding of actions taken under RCW 28A.225.030.

- 1 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28A.250.070 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 18 s 508 are each 2 amended to read as follows:
- Nothing in this chapter is intended to diminish the rights of 3 students to attend a nonresident school district in accordance with 4 RCW 28A.225.220 through 28A.225.230 for the purposes of enrolling in 5 6 ((online courses or online school)) alternative learning experience 7 programs. The office of online learning under RCW 28A.250.030 shall develop a standard form, which must be used by all school districts,
- 8
- for releasing a student to a nonresident school district for the 9
- purposes of enrolling in an ((online course or online school)) 10
- 11 alternative learning experience program.

- 12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. A new section is added to chapter 28A.232 13 RCW to read as follows:
- The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to bring 14 15 consistency and uniformity to attendance and truancy definitions in 16 the alternative learning experience setting, establish procedures for addressing truancy in all alternative learning experience courses, 17 leverage existing systems to facilitate truancy actions between 18 school districts and courts when the student has transferred out of 19 20 his or her resident district to enroll in an alternative learning experience course; and clarify the responsibility of school districts 21 in the event of rescinding a student transfer.
- 23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. RCW 28A.225.115 (Educational services— Funding for children referred to community truancy board) and 1996 c 24 25 134 s 11 are each repealed.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. If specific funding for the purposes of 26 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not 27 28 provided by June 30, 2017, in the omnibus appropriations act, this 29 act is null and void.

Passed by the House April 17, 2017. Passed by the Senate April 11, 2017. Approved by the Governor May 16, 2017. Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 16, 2017.

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