

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 805
Second Edition Engrossed 6/26/91

Short Title: Raise School Attendance Age.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Bryan and Hunt.

Referred to: Education.

April 24, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO RAISE THE AGE OF COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE IN PUBLIC
SCHOOLS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. (a) Effective October 1, 1992, G.S. 115C-378 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-378. Children ~~between seven and 16~~ required to attend.

Every parent, guardian or other person in this State having charge or control of a child between the ages of seven and ~~16~~ $16\frac{1}{2}$ years shall cause such child to attend school continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the child is assigned shall be in ~~session~~ session, unless (i) the child is a high school graduate, (ii) the child is enrolled full time in a vocational course of study or an adult high school diploma program at an institution within the community college system, (iii) the child successfully completed a vocational course of study or an adult high school diploma program at an institution within the community college system, (iv) the child received a passing score on the General Educational Development Test, or (v) the child's parent or guardian, the principal of his school, and the superintendent agree that it is in the best interest of the child to withdraw from school.

No person shall encourage, entice or counsel any such child to be unlawfully absent from school. The parent, guardian, or custodian of a child shall notify the school of the reason for each known absence of the child, in accordance with local school policy.

The principal, superintendent, or teacher who is in charge of such school shall have the right to excuse a child temporarily from attendance on account of sickness or other unavoidable cause which does not constitute unlawful absence as defined by the State

1 Board of Education. The term 'school' as used herein is defined to embrace all public
2 schools and such nonpublic schools as have teachers and curricula that are approved by
3 the State Board of Education.

4 All nonpublic schools receiving and instructing children of a compulsory school age
5 shall be required to keep such records of attendance and render such reports of the
6 attendance of such children and maintain such minimum curriculum standards as are
7 required of public schools; and attendance upon such schools, if the school refuses or
8 neglects to keep such records or to render such reports, shall not be accepted in lieu of
9 attendance upon the public school of the district to which the child shall be assigned:
10 Provided, that instruction in a nonpublic school shall not be regarded as meeting the
11 requirements of the law unless the courses of instruction run concurrently with the term
12 of the public school in the district and extend for at least as long a term.

13 The principal or his designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of his
14 child's excessive absences after the child has accumulated three unexcused absences in a
15 school year. After not more than six unexcused absences, the principal shall notify the
16 parent, guardian, or custodian by mail that he may be in violation of the Compulsory
17 Attendance Law and may be prosecuted if the absences cannot be justified under the
18 established attendance policies of the State and local boards of education. Once the
19 parents are notified, the school attendance counselor shall work with the child and his
20 family to analyze the causes of the absences and determine steps, including adjustment
21 of the school program or obtaining supplemental services, to eliminate the problem. The
22 attendance counselor may request that a law-enforcement officer accompany him if he
23 believes that a home visit is necessary.

24 After 10 accumulated unexcused absences in a school year the principal shall review
25 any report or investigation prepared under G.S. 115C-381 and shall confer with the
26 student and his parent, guardian, or custodian if possible to determine whether the
27 parent, guardian, or custodian has received notification pursuant to this section and
28 made a good faith effort to comply with the law. If the principal determines that parent,
29 guardian, or custodian has not, he shall notify the district attorney. If he determines that
30 parent, guardian, or custodian has, he may file a complaint with the juvenile intake
31 counselor under G.S. 7A-561 that the child is habitually absent from school without a
32 valid excuse. Evidence that shows that the parents, guardian, or custodian were notified
33 and that the child has accumulated 10 absences which cannot be justified under the
34 established attendance policies of the local board shall establish a **prima facie** case that
35 the child's parent, guardian, or custodian is responsible for the absences."

36 (b) This section does not apply to children who are between the ages of 16
37 and 16 ½ years on October 1, 1992, and who withdrew from school prior to October 1,
38 1992.

39 Sec. 2. (a) Effective October 1, 1993, G.S. 115C-378, as rewritten by Section 1 of
40 this act, reads as rewritten:

41 "**§ 115C-378. Children required to attend.**

42 Every parent, guardian or other person in this State having charge or control of a
43 child between the ages of seven and ~~16½~~ 17 years shall cause such child to attend school
44 continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the child is

1 assigned shall be in session, unless (i) the child is a high school graduate, (ii) the
2 child is enrolled full time in a vocational course of study or an adult high school
3 diploma program at an institution within the community college system, (iii) the child
4 successfully completed a vocational course of study or an adult high school diploma
5 program at an institution within the community college system, (iv) the child received a
6 passing score on the General Educational Development test, or (v) the child's parent or
7 guardian, the principal of his school, and the superintendent agree that it is in the best
8 interest of the child to withdraw from school.

9 No person shall encourage, entice or counsel any such child to be unlawfully absent
10 from school. The parent, guardian, or custodian of a child shall notify the school of the
11 reason for each known absence of the child, in accordance with local school policy.

12 The principal, superintendent, or teacher who is in charge of such school shall have
13 the right to excuse a child temporarily from attendance on account of sickness or other
14 unavoidable cause which does not constitute unlawful absence as defined by the State
15 Board of Education. The term 'school' as used herein is defined to embrace all public
16 schools and such nonpublic schools as have teachers and curricula that are approved by
17 the State Board of Education.

18 All nonpublic schools receiving and instructing children of a compulsory school age
19 shall be required to keep such records of attendance and render such reports of the
20 attendance of such children and maintain such minimum curriculum standards as are
21 required of public schools; and attendance upon such schools, if the school refuses or
22 neglects to keep such records or to render such reports, shall not be accepted in lieu of
23 attendance upon the public school of the district to which the child shall be assigned:
24 Provided, that instruction in a nonpublic school shall not be regarded as meeting the
25 requirements of the law unless the courses of instruction run concurrently with the term
26 of the public school in the district and extend for at least as long a term.

27 The principal or his designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of his
28 child's excessive absences after the child has accumulated three unexcused absences in a
29 school year. After not more than six unexcused absences, the principal shall notify the
30 parent, guardian, or custodian by mail that he may be in violation of the Compulsory
31 Attendance Law and may be prosecuted if the absences cannot be justified under the
32 established attendance policies of the State and local boards of education. Once the
33 parents are notified, the school attendance counselor shall work with the child and his
34 family to analyze the causes of the absences and determine steps, including adjustment
35 of the school program or obtaining supplemental services, to eliminate the problem. The
36 attendance counselor may request that a law-enforcement officer accompany him if he
37 believes that a home visit is necessary.

38 After 10 accumulated unexcused absences in a school year the principal shall review
39 any report or investigation prepared under G.S. 115C-381 and shall confer with the
40 student and his parent, guardian, or custodian if possible to determine whether the
41 parent, guardian, or custodian has received notification pursuant to this section and
42 made a good faith effort to comply with the law. If the principal determines that parent,
43 guardian, or custodian has not, he shall notify the district attorney. If he determines that
44 parent, guardian, or custodian has, he may file a complaint with the juvenile intake

1 counselor under G.S. 7A-561 that the child is habitually absent from school without a
2 valid excuse. Evidence that shows that the parents, guardian, or custodian were notified
3 and that the child has accumulated 10 absences which cannot be justified under the
4 established attendance policies of the local board shall establish a **prima facie** case that
5 the child's parent, guardian, or custodian is responsible for the absences."

6 (b) This section does not apply to children who are between the ages of 16 ½
7 and 17 years on October 1, 1993, and who withdrew from school prior to October 1,
8 1993.

9 Sec. 3. (a) Effective October 1, 1994, G.S. 115C-378, as rewritten by Sections 1 and
10 2 of this act, reads as rewritten:

11 "**§ 115C-378. Children required to attend.**

12 Every parent, guardian or other person in this State having charge or control of a
13 child between the ages of seven and ~~17~~17 ½ years shall cause such child to attend
14 school continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the
15 child is assigned shall be in session, unless (i) the child is a high school graduate, (ii)
16 the child is enrolled full time in a vocational course of study or an adult high school
17 diploma program at an institution within the community college system, (iii) the child
18 successfully completed a vocational course of study or an adult high school diploma
19 program at an institution within the community college system, (iv) the child received a
20 passing score on the General Educational Development test, or (v) the child's parent or
21 guardian, the principal of his school, and the superintendent agree that it is in the best
22 interest of the child to withdraw from school.

23 No person shall encourage, entice or counsel any such child to be unlawfully absent
24 from school. The parent, guardian, or custodian of a child shall notify the school of the
25 reason for each known absence of the child, in accordance with local school policy.

26 The principal, superintendent, or teacher who is in charge of such school shall have
27 the right to excuse a child temporarily from attendance on account of sickness or other
28 unavoidable cause which does not constitute unlawful absence as defined by the State
29 Board of Education. The term 'school' as used herein is defined to embrace all public
30 schools and such nonpublic schools as have teachers and curricula that are approved by
31 the State Board of Education.

32 All nonpublic schools receiving and instructing children of a compulsory school age
33 shall be required to keep such records of attendance and render such reports of the
34 attendance of such children and maintain such minimum curriculum standards as are
35 required of public schools; and attendance upon such schools, if the school refuses or
36 neglects to keep such records or to render such reports, shall not be accepted in lieu of
37 attendance upon the public school of the district to which the child shall be assigned:
38 Provided, that instruction in a nonpublic school shall not be regarded as meeting the
39 requirements of the law unless the courses of instruction run concurrently with the term
40 of the public school in the district and extend for at least as long a term.

41 The principal or his designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of his
42 child's excessive absences after the child has accumulated three unexcused absences in a
43 school year. After not more than six unexcused absences, the principal shall notify the
44 parent, guardian, or custodian by mail that he may be in violation of the Compulsory

1 Attendance Law and may be prosecuted if the absences cannot be justified under the
2 established attendance policies of the State and local boards of education. Once the
3 parents are notified, the school attendance counselor shall work with the child and his
4 family to analyze the causes of the absences and determine steps, including adjustment
5 of the school program or obtaining supplemental services, to eliminate the problem. The
6 attendance counselor may request that a law-enforcement officer accompany him if he
7 believes that a home visit is necessary.

8 After 10 accumulated unexcused absences in a school year the principal shall review
9 any report or investigation prepared under G.S. 115C-381 and shall confer with the
10 student and his parent, guardian, or custodian if possible to determine whether the
11 parent, guardian, or custodian has received notification pursuant to this section and
12 made a good faith effort to comply with the law. If the principal determines that parent,
13 guardian, or custodian has not, he shall notify the district attorney. If he determines that
14 parent, guardian, or custodian has, he may file a complaint with the juvenile intake
15 counselor under G.S. 7A-561 that the child is habitually absent from school without a
16 valid excuse. Evidence that shows that the parents, guardian, or custodian were notified
17 and that the child has accumulated 10 absences which cannot be justified under the
18 established attendance policies of the local board shall establish a **prima facie** case that
19 the child's parent, guardian, or custodian is responsible for the absences."

20 (b) This section does not apply to children who are between the ages of 17
21 and 17 ½ years on October 1, 1994, and who withdrew from school prior to October 1,
22 1994.

23 Sec. 4. (a) Effective October 1, 1995, G.S. 115C-378, as rewritten by Sections 1, 2,
24 and 3 of this act, reads as rewritten:

25 "**§ 115C-378. Children required to attend.**

26 Every parent, guardian or other person in this State having charge or control of a
27 child between the ages of seven and ~~17 ½~~ 18 years shall cause such child to attend
28 school continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the
29 child is assigned shall be in session, unless (i) the child is a high school graduate, (ii)
30 the child is enrolled full time in a vocational course of study or an adult high school
31 diploma program at an institution within the community college system, (iii) the child
32 successfully completed a vocational course of study or an adult high school diploma
33 program at an institution within the community college system, (iv) the child received a
34 passing score on the General Educational Development test, or (v) the child's parent or
35 guardian, the principal of his school, and the superintendent agree that it is in the best
36 interest of the child to withdraw from school.

37 No person shall encourage, entice or counsel any such child to be unlawfully absent
38 from school. The parent, guardian, or custodian of a child shall notify the school of the
39 reason for each known absence of the child, in accordance with local school policy.

40 The principal, superintendent, or teacher who is in charge of such school shall have
41 the right to excuse a child temporarily from attendance on account of sickness or other
42 unavoidable cause which does not constitute unlawful absence as defined by the State
43 Board of Education. The term 'school' as used herein is defined to embrace all public

1 schools and such nonpublic schools as have teachers and curricula that are approved by
2 the State Board of Education.

3 All nonpublic schools receiving and instructing children of a compulsory school age
4 shall be required to keep such records of attendance and render such reports of the
5 attendance of such children and maintain such minimum curriculum standards as are
6 required of public schools; and attendance upon such schools, if the school refuses or
7 neglects to keep such records or to render such reports, shall not be accepted in lieu of
8 attendance upon the public school of the district to which the child shall be assigned:
9 Provided, that instruction in a nonpublic school shall not be regarded as meeting the
10 requirements of the law unless the courses of instruction run concurrently with the term
11 of the public school in the district and extend for at least as long a term.

12 The principal or his designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of his
13 child's excessive absences after the child has accumulated three unexcused absences in a
14 school year. After not more than six unexcused absences, the principal shall notify the
15 parent, guardian, or custodian by mail that he may be in violation of the Compulsory
16 Attendance Law and may be prosecuted if the absences cannot be justified under the
17 established attendance policies of the State and local boards of education. Once the
18 parents are notified, the school attendance counselor shall work with the child and his
19 family to analyze the causes of the absences and determine steps, including adjustment
20 of the school program or obtaining supplemental services, to eliminate the problem. The
21 attendance counselor may request that a law-enforcement officer accompany him if he
22 believes that a home visit is necessary.

23 After 10 accumulated unexcused absences in a school year the principal shall review
24 any report or investigation prepared under G.S. 115C-381 and shall confer with the
25 student and his parent, guardian, or custodian if possible to determine whether the
26 parent, guardian, or custodian has received notification pursuant to this section and
27 made a good faith effort to comply with the law. If the principal determines that parent,
28 guardian, or custodian has not, he shall notify the district attorney. If he determines that
29 parent, guardian, or custodian has, he may file a complaint with the juvenile intake
30 counselor under G.S. 7A-561 that the child is habitually absent from school without a
31 valid excuse. Evidence that shows that the parents, guardian, or custodian were notified
32 and that the child has accumulated 10 absences which cannot be justified under the
33 established attendance policies of the local board shall establish a **prima facie** case that
34 the child's parent, guardian, or custodian is responsible for the absences."

35 (b) This section does not apply to children who are between the ages of 17½
36 and 18 years on October 1, 1995, and who withdrew from school prior to October 1,
37 1995.

38 Sec. 5. G.S. 115C-382 reads as rewritten:

39 "**§ 115C-382. Investigation of indigency.**

40 If affidavit shall be made by the parent of a child or by any other person that any
41 child ~~between the ages of seven and 16 years who is required to attend school under G.S.~~
42 115C-378 is not able to attend school by reason of necessity to work or labor for the
43 support of himself or the support of the family, then the school social worker shall
44 diligently inquire into the matter and bring it to the attention of some court allowed by

1 law to act as a juvenile court, and said court shall proceed to find whether as a matter of
2 fact such parents, or persons standing **in loco parentis**, are unable to send said child to
3 school for the term of compulsory attendance for the reasons given. If the court shall
4 find, after careful investigation, that the parents have made or are making bona fide
5 effort to comply with the compulsory attendance law, and by reason of illness, lack of
6 earning capacity, or any other cause which the court may deem valid and sufficient, are
7 unable to send said child to school, then the court shall find and state what help is
8 needed for the family to enable compliance with the attendance law. The court shall
9 transmit its findings to the director of social services of the county or city in which the
10 case may arise for such social services officer's consideration and action."

11 Sec. 6. G.S. 7A-517 reads as rewritten:

12 **"§ 7A-517. Definitions.**

13 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following words have the listed
14 meanings:

- 15 (1) Abused Juveniles. – Any juvenile less than 18 years of age whose
16 parent or other person responsible for his care:
- 17 a. Inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the juvenile a
18 physical injury by other than accidental means which
19 causes or creates a substantial risk of death,
20 disfigurement, impairment of physical health, or loss or
21 impairment of function of any bodily organ; or
 - 22 b. Creates or allows to be created a substantial risk of
23 physical injury to the juvenile by other than accidental
24 means which would be likely to cause death,
25 disfigurement, impairment of physical health, or loss or
26 impairment of the function of any bodily organ; or
 - 27 c. Commits, permits, or encourages the commission of a
28 violation of the following laws by, with, or upon the
29 juvenile: first degree rape, as provided in G.S. 14-27.2;
30 second degree rape as provided in G.S. 14-27.3; first
31 degree sexual offense, as provided in G.S. 14-27.4;
32 second degree sexual offense, as provided in G.S. 14-
33 27.5; sexual act by a custodian, as provided in G.S. 14-
34 27.7; crime against nature, as provided in G.S. 14-177;
35 incest, as provided in G.S. 14-178 and 14-179;
36 preparation of obscene photographs, slides or motion
37 pictures of the juvenile, as provided in G.S. 14-190.5;
38 employing or permitting the juvenile to assist in a
39 violation of the obscenity laws as provided in G.S. 14-
40 190.6; dissemination of obscene material to the juvenile
41 as provided in G.S. 14-190.7 and G.S. 14-190.8;
42 displaying or disseminating material harmful to the
43 juvenile as provided in G.S. 14-190.14 and G.S. 14-
44 190.15; first and second degree sexual exploitation of the

- 1 juvenile as provided in G.S. 14-190.16 and G.S. 14-
2 190.17; promoting the prostitution of the juvenile as
3 provided in G.S. 14-190.18; and taking indecent liberties
4 with the juvenile, as provided in G.S. 14-202.1,
5 regardless of the age of the parties.
- 6 d. Creates or allows to be created serious emotional
7 damage to the juvenile and refuses to permit, provide for,
8 or participate in treatment. Serious emotional damage is
9 evidenced by a juvenile's severe anxiety, depression,
10 withdrawal or aggressive behavior toward himself or
11 others; or
- 12 e. Encourages, directs, or approves of delinquent acts
13 involving moral turpitude committed by the juvenile.
- 14 (2) Aftercare. – The supervision of a juvenile who has been returned
15 to the community on conditional release after having been
16 committed to the Division of Youth Services.
- 17 (3) Administrator for Juvenile Services. – The person who is
18 responsible for the planning, organization, and administration of a
19 statewide system of juvenile intake, probation, and aftercare
20 services.
- 21 (4) Director of the Division of Youth Services. – The person
22 responsible for the supervision of the administration of
23 institutional and detention services.
- 24 (5) Caretaker. – Any person other than a parent who has the care of a
25 juvenile. Caretaker includes any blood relative, stepparent, foster
26 parent, house parent, cottage parent, or other person supervising a
27 juvenile in a child-care facility. 'Caretaker' also means any
28 person who has the responsibility for the care of a juvenile in a
29 day-care plan or facility as defined in G.S. 110-86 and includes
30 any person who has the approval of the care provider to assume
31 responsibility for the juveniles under the care of the care provider.
- 32 (6) Chief Court Counselor. – The person responsible for
33 administration and supervision of juvenile intake, probation, and
34 aftercare in each judicial district, operating under the supervision
35 of the Administrator for Juvenile Services.
- 36 (7) Clerk. – Any clerk of superior court, acting clerk, or assistant or
37 deputy clerk.
- 38 (8) Community-Based Program. – A program providing
39 nonresidential or residential treatment to a juvenile in the
40 community where his family lives. A community-based program
41 may include specialized foster care, family counseling, shelter
42 care, and other appropriate treatment.
- 43 (9) Court. – The District Court Division of the General Court of
44 Justice.

- 1 (10) Court Counselor. – A person responsible for probation and
2 aftercare services to juveniles on probation or on conditional
3 release from the Division of Youth Services under the supervision
4 of the chief court counselor.
- 5 (11) Custodian. – The person or agency that has been awarded legal
6 custody of a juvenile by a court.
- 7 (12) Delinquent Juvenile. – Any juvenile less than 16 years of age who
8 has committed a crime or infraction under State law or under an
9 ordinance of local government, including violation of the motor
10 vehicle laws.
- 11 (13) Dependent Juvenile. – A juvenile in need of assistance or
12 placement because he has no parent, guardian or custodian
13 responsible for his care or supervision or whose parent, guardian,
14 or custodian is unable to provide for his care or supervision.
- 15 (14) Detention. – The confinement of a juvenile pursuant to an order
16 for secure custody pending an adjudicatory or dispositional
17 hearing or admission to a placement with the Division of Youth
18 Services.
- 19 (15) Detention Home. – An authorized facility providing secure
20 custody for juveniles.
- 21 (15a) District. – Any district court district as established by G.S. 7A-
22 133.
- 23 (16) Holdover Facility. – A place in a jail which has been approved by
24 the Department of Human Resources as meeting the State
25 standards for detention as required in G.S. 153A-221 providing
26 close supervision where the juvenile cannot converse with, see, or
27 be seen by the adult population.
- 28 (16.1) **In Loco Parentis.** – A person acting **in loco parentis** means one,
29 other than parents or legal guardian, who has assumed the status
30 and obligation of a parent without being awarded the legal
31 custody of a juvenile by a court.
- 32 (17) Intake Counselor. – A person who screens a petition alleging that
33 a juvenile is delinquent or undisciplined to determine whether the
34 petition should be filed.
- 35 (18) Interstate Compact on Juveniles. – An agreement ratified by 50
36 states and the District of Columbia providing a formal means of
37 returning a juvenile, who is an absconder, escapee or runaway, to
38 his home state.
- 39 (19) Judge. – Any district court judge.
- 40 (19a) Judicial District. – Any district court district as established by
41 G.S. 7A-133.
- 42 (20) Juvenile. ~~Any~~ Except as otherwise provided in subdivisions (12)
43 and (28) of this section, a juvenile is any person who has not
44 reached his eighteenth birthday and is not married, emancipated,

1 or a member of the armed services of the United States. ~~For the~~
2 ~~purposes of subdivisions (12) and (28) of this section, a juvenile is any~~
3 ~~person who has not reached his sixteenth birthday and is not married,~~
4 ~~emancipated, or a member of the armed forces.~~—A juvenile who is
5 married, emancipated, or a member of the armed forces, shall be
6 prosecuted as an adult for the commission of a criminal offense.
7 Wherever the term 'juvenile' is used with reference to rights and
8 privileges, that term encompasses the attorney for the juvenile as
9 well.

- 10 (21) Neglected Juvenile. – A juvenile who does not receive proper
11 care, supervision, or discipline from his parent, guardian,
12 custodian, or caretaker; or who has been abandoned; or who is not
13 provided necessary medical care or other remedial care
14 recognized under State law, or who lives in an environment
15 injurious to his welfare, or who has been placed for care or
16 adoption in violation of law. In determining whether a juvenile is
17 a neglected juvenile, it is relevant whether that juvenile lives in a
18 home where another juvenile has died as a result of abuse or
19 neglect or lives in a home where another juvenile has been
20 subjected to sexual abuse or severe physical abuse by an adult
21 who regularly lives in the home.
- 22 (22) Petitioner. – The individual who initiates court action, whether by
23 the filing of a petition or of a motion for review alleging the
24 matter for adjudication.
- 25 (23) Probation. – The status of a juvenile who has been adjudicated
26 delinquent, is subject to specified conditions under the
27 supervision of a court counselor, and may be returned to the court
28 for violation of those conditions during the period of probation.
- 29 (24) Prosecutor. – The assistant district attorney assigned by the
30 district attorney to juvenile proceedings.
- 31 (25) Protective Supervision. – The status of a juvenile who has been
32 adjudicated delinquent or undisciplined and is under the
33 supervision of a court counselor.
- 34 (26) Regional Detention Home. – A state-supported and administered
35 regional facility providing detention care.
- 36 (27) Shelter Care. – The temporary care of a juvenile in a physically
37 unrestricting facility pending court disposition.
- 38 (28) Undisciplined Juvenile. – A juvenile ~~less than 16 years of age~~ who
39 is unlawfully absent from school; or a juvenile less than 16 years
40 of age who (i) is regularly disobedient to his parent, guardian, or
41 custodian and beyond their disciplinary control; or control, (ii)
42 who is regularly found in places where it is unlawful for a
43 juvenile to be; or be, (iii) or who has run away from home.

1 The singular includes the plural, the masculine singular includes the feminine
2 singular and masculine and feminine plural unless otherwise specified."

3 Sec. 7. Except as otherwise provided by this act, this act becomes effective
4 October 1, 1992.