

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 967

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE REINHART.

Read 1st time March 13, 2001, and 1000 copies ordered printed.

TED WEDEL, Chief Clerk

2053L.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 167.031, 167.051 and 167.275, RSMo 2000, relating to compulsory age for school attendance, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to the same subject.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 167.031, 167.051 and 167.275, RSMo 2000, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 167.031, 167.051 and 167.275, to read as follows:

167.031. 1. Every parent, guardian or other person in this state having charge, control or custody of a child not enrolled in a public, private, parochial, parish school or full-time equivalent attendance in a combination of such schools and between the ages of seven and [sixteen] **eighteen** years is responsible for enrolling the child in a program of academic instruction which complies with subsection 2 of this section. Any parent, guardian or other person who enrolls a child between the ages of five and seven years in a public school program of academic instruction shall cause such child to attend the academic program on a regular basis, according to this section. Nonattendance by such child shall cause such parent, guardian or other responsible person to be in violation of the provisions of section 167.061, except as provided by this section. A parent, guardian or other person in this state having charge, control, or custody of a child between the ages of seven and [sixteen] **eighteen** years of age shall cause the child to attend regularly some public, private, parochial, parish, home school or a combination of such schools not less than the entire school term of the school which the child attends; except that

(1) A child who, to the satisfaction of the superintendent of public schools of the district

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

15 in which he **or she** resides, or if there is no superintendent then the chief school officer, is
16 determined to be mentally or physically incapacitated may be excused from attendance at school
17 for the full time required, or any part thereof;

18 (2) A child between fourteen and [~~sixteen~~] **eighteen** years of age may be excused from
19 attendance at school for the full time required, or any part thereof, by the superintendent of
20 public schools of the district, or if there is none then by a court of competent jurisdiction, when
21 legal employment has been obtained by the child and found to be desirable, and after the parents
22 or guardian of the child have been advised of the pending action; or

23 (3) A child between five and seven years of age shall be excused from attendance at
24 school if a parent, guardian or other person having charge, control or custody of the child makes
25 a written request that the child be dropped from the school's rolls.

26 2. (1) As used in sections 167.031 to 167.071, a "home school" is a school, whether
27 incorporated or unincorporated, that:

28 (a) Has as its primary purpose the provision of private or religious-based instruction;

29 (b) Enrolls pupils between the ages of seven and [~~sixteen~~] **eighteen** years, of which no
30 more than four are unrelated by affinity or consanguinity in the third degree; and

31 (c) Does not charge or receive consideration in the form of tuition, fees, or other
32 remuneration in a genuine and fair exchange for provision of instruction;

33 (2) As evidence that a child is receiving regular instruction, the parent shall:

34 (a) Maintain the following records:

35 a. A plan book, diary, or other written record indicating subjects taught and activities
36 engaged in; and

37 b. A portfolio of samples of the child's academic work; and

38 c. A record of evaluations of the child's academic progress; or

39 d. Other written, or credible evidence equivalent to subparagraphs a., b. and c.; and

40 (b) Offer at least one thousand hours of instruction, at least six hundred hours of which
41 will be in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science or academic courses
42 that are related to the aforementioned subject areas and consonant with the pupil's age and
43 ability. At least four hundred of the six hundred hours shall occur at the regular home school
44 location.

45 3. Nothing in this section shall require a private, parochial, parish or home school to
46 include in its curriculum any concept, topic, or practice in conflict with the school's religious
47 doctrines or to exclude from its curriculum any concept, topic, or practice consistent with the
48 school's religious doctrines. Any other provision of the law to the contrary notwithstanding, all
49 departments or agencies of the state of Missouri shall be prohibited from dictating through rule,
50 regulation or other device any statewide curriculum for private, parochial, parish or home

51 schools.

52 4. A school year begins on the first day of July and ends on the thirtieth day of June
53 following.

54 5. The production by a parent of a daily log showing that a home school has a course of
55 instruction which satisfies the requirements of this section shall be a defense to any prosecution
56 [under] **pursuant to** this section and to any charge or action for educational neglect brought
57 pursuant to chapter 210, RSMo.

167.051. 1. If a school board establishes part-time schools or classes for children under
2 [sixteen] **eighteen** years of age, lawfully engaged in any regular employment, every parent,
3 guardian or other person having charge, control or custody of such a child shall cause the child
4 to attend the school not less than four hours a week between the hours of eight o'clock in the
5 morning and five o'clock in the evening during the school year of the part-time classes.

6 2. All children who are under eighteen years of age, who have not completed the
7 elementary school course in the public schools of Missouri, or its equivalent, and who are not
8 attending regularly any day school shall be required to attend regularly the part-time classes not
9 less than four hours a week between the hours of eight o'clock in the morning and five o'clock
10 in the afternoon during the entire year of the part-time classes.

167.275. [Effective January 1, 1991,] All public and nonpublic secondary schools shall
2 report to the state literacy hot line office in Jefferson City the name, mailing address and
3 telephone number of all students [sixteen] **eighteen** years of age or older who drop out of school
4 for any reason other than to attend another school, college or university, or enlist in the armed
5 services. Such reports shall be made either by using the telephone hot line number or on forms
6 developed by the department of elementary and secondary education. Upon such notification,
7 the state literacy hot line office shall contact the student who has been reported and refer that
8 student to the nearest location that provides adult basic education instruction leading to the
9 completion of a general educational development certificate.