

HB 1801 -- Mandatory School Attendance

Sponsor: Gatschenberger

This bill requires public schools to notify a student's custodial parent or guardian if the student has an unexcused absence and to request a conference with the parent or guardian and the child if two unexcused absences occur within the same month. The conference can be combined with a regularly scheduled parent-teacher conference if the regular conference takes place within 30 days of the second unexcused absence. The school must take steps to reduce or eliminate the child's absences including adjusting assignments, providing additional instruction, or helping the student obtain supplemental services. A parent or guardian who fails to enforce school attendance will be guilty of a class C misdemeanor and will be assessed a fine of up to \$25 for each day of the child's unexcused absence. If a student has five or more unexcused absences and is a licensed driver, the school must notify the Department of Revenue and the department must give notice and an opportunity for the student to show cause why his or her driver's license should not be suspended. If the student fails to show good cause, the department must suspend the student's license for 30 days for each unexcused absence. This provision does not apply to a student who withdraws from school for a reason beyond his or her control or who transfers to another school. Any student whose license is suspended may apply for a restricted driver's license for certain purposes.