

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 324

## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE NEELY.

0085H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 167.161, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to truant pupils.

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

Section A. Section 167.161, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 167.161, to read as follows:

167.161. 1. The school board of any district, after notice to parents or others having custodial care and a hearing upon charges preferred, may suspend or expel a pupil for conduct which is prejudicial to good order and discipline in the schools or which tends to impair the morale or good conduct of the pupils. In addition to the authority granted in section 167.171, a school board may authorize, by general rule, the immediate removal of a pupil upon a finding by the principal, superintendent, or school board that the pupil poses a threat of harm to such pupil or others, as evidenced by the prior conduct of such pupil. Prior disciplinary actions shall not be used as the sole basis for removal, suspension or expulsion of a pupil. Removal of any pupil who is a student with a disability is subject to state and federal procedural rights. At the hearing upon any such removal, suspension or expulsion, the board shall consider the evidence and statements that the parties present and may consider records of past disciplinary actions, criminal court records or juvenile court records consistent with other provisions of the law, or the actions of the pupil which would constitute a criminal offense. The board may provide by general rule not inconsistent with this section for the procedure and conduct of such hearings. After meeting with the superintendent or his designee to discuss the expulsion, the parent, custodian or the student, if at least eighteen years of age, may, in writing, waive any right to a hearing before the board of education.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           2. The school board of any district, after notice to parents or others having custodial care  
19 and a hearing upon the matter, may suspend a pupil upon a finding that the pupil has been  
20 charged, convicted or pled guilty in a court of general jurisdiction for the commission of a felony  
21 criminal violation of state or federal law. At a hearing required by this subsection, the board  
22 shall consider statements that the parties present. The board may provide for the procedure and  
23 conduct of such hearings.

24           3. The school board shall make a good-faith effort to have the parents or others having  
25 custodial care present at any such hearing. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
26 contrary, student discipline hearings or proceedings related to the rights of students to attend  
27 school or to receive academic credit shall not be required to comply with the requirements  
28 applicable to contested case hearings as provided in chapter 536, provided that appropriate due  
29 process procedures shall be observed which shall include the right for a trial de novo by the  
30 circuit court.

31           **4. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other section, no school**  
32 **board shall suspend any pupil for an act or acts of truancy.**

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