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**Sens. Spada, Finan, Johnson, Mumper, Latta, Carnes, Gardner, Oelslager, Watts, Drake, Cupp, Kearns**

**Reps. Womer Benjamin, Taylor, Callender, Robinson, Tiberi, Harris, Metzger, Grendell, Salerno, Distel, Clancy, Hoops, Goodman, Jolivette, Stapleton, Terwilleger, Vesper, Willamowski, Widener, Corbin, Jacobson, Cates**

**Effective date:** \*

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**ACT SUMMARY**

- Expands the definition of delinquent child to also include any child who is an "habitual truant" and who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant and any child who is a "chronic truant."
- Expands the definition of unruly child to also include any child who is an "habitual truant" from school and who previously has not been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant, and makes other modifications in the definition.
- Expands juvenile court jurisdiction by granting them exclusive original jurisdiction: (1) concerning the parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child who is alleged to be an unruly or delinquent child for being an habitual or chronic truant, based on and in relation to the allegation against the child, (2) generally, over all criminal cases in which an adult is charged with the offense of "parental education neglect," (3) to hear and determine violations of the prohibition against a parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child of compulsory school age failing to send the child to school as required by law, and (4) generally, to exercise jurisdiction and authority over the parent, guardian, or other person having

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*\*The Legislative Service Commission had not received formal notification of the effective date at the time this analysis was prepared.*

care of a child alleged to be a delinquent child, unruly child, or juvenile traffic offender, based on and in relation to the allegation against the child.

- Specifies that the juvenile court must require the parent, guardian, or custodian of an alleged delinquent child, unruly child, or juvenile traffic offender to attend all proceedings of the court regarding the child, and that failure to so attend may be treated as contempt.
- Makes exceptions to certain existing juvenile court procedures in cases involving a child who is alleged to be an unruly or delinquent child for being an habitual or chronic truant and involving the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child.
- Specifies that, if a child is adjudicated a delinquent or unruly child for being a "chronic truant" or an "habitual truant" and if the court determines that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has failed to cause the child's attendance at school in violation of law, the court: (1) may require the parent, guardian, or other person to participate in any community service program, preferably a community service program that requires the involvement of the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child in the school the child attends, (2) may require the parent, guardian, or other person to participate in a truancy prevention mediation program, and (3) must warn the parent, guardian, or other person of the consequences of continued truancy.
- Expands the existing provision that requires the notification of specified school officials if a child is found to be a delinquent child for any of a list of specified acts by: (1) reducing to 14 years of age or older the age of delinquent children to whom it applies, (2) requiring the notice to also be given to the school principal, and (3) expanding the list of offenses in relation to which the provision applies.
- Expands the authorized dispositions for habitually truant unruly children to also include: (1) ordering the appropriate board of education to require the child to attend an alternative school if one has been established, (2) requiring the child to participate in an academic program or community service program, (3) requiring the child to participate in a drug abuse or alcohol abuse counseling program, (4) requiring the child to receive appropriate medical or psychological treatment or counseling, and (5) making any other order that the court finds proper to address the child's

habitual truancy, including an order requiring the habitually truant child to not be absent without legitimate excuse from school for five or more consecutive days, seven or more school days in one school month, or 12 or more school days in a school year and including an order requiring the child to participate in a truancy prevention mediation program.

- Clarifies provisions that, in specified circumstances, permit a juvenile court to use specified delinquent child dispositions for unruly children and juvenile traffic offenders.
- Clarifies a provision that permits a juvenile court, if a child is adjudicated a delinquent, unruly, abused, neglected, or dependent child, to make an order restraining or otherwise controlling the conduct of any parent, guardian, or other custodian in the relationship of that individual to the child, and specifies that this authority and orders issued under it are in addition to any delinquent or unruly child dispositions under the act related to truancy.
- Expands the record-keeping requirements of juvenile courts to also require each juvenile court to maintain, in cases pertaining to an alleged delinquent child, arrest and custody records, complaints, journal entries, and hearing summaries.
- Specifies that the provisions for the sealing of the record of a delinquent child do not apply if the delinquent act was aggravated murder, murder, rape, sexual battery, or gross sexual imposition; permits the person who maintains sealed records pertaining to a delinquent child adjudication to maintain an index to the sealed records; and, in specified circumstances, expands the list of persons who may inspect the sealed records to also include any law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or assistant of a law enforcement officer or prosecutor for any valid law enforcement or prosecutorial purpose.
- Authorizes a board of education that determines that a student has been truant and that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has failed to cause the student's attendance at school to require the parent, guardian, or other person to attend a specified educational program for the purpose of encouraging parental involvement in compelling the attendance of the child, and, in certain cases, requires the attendance of the parent, guardian, or other person at such a program.

- Requires each board of education to adopt a policy to guide employees of the district in addressing and ameliorating the attendance practice of any pupil who is an habitual truant.
- Regarding habitual truants, requires the board of education to take any appropriate action as an intervention strategy contained in the policy adopted by the board or file a complaint in the juvenile court jointly against the child and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child alleging that the child is an unruly child and that the parent, guardian, or other person has violated the compulsory School Attendance Law, and regarding chronic truants, requires the board of education to file a complaint in the juvenile court jointly against the child and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child containing those allegations.
- Grants juvenile courts exclusive original jurisdiction over a complaint alleging that a parent, guardian, or other person in charge of a child failed to cause the child's attendance at school.
- Provides that, when a complaint is filed in juvenile court alleging that a child is an unruly or delinquent child for being an habitual or chronic truant and that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child failed to cause the child's attendance at school, the court must order the parent, guardian, or other person to appear personally at the hearing and direct the person to bring the child to the hearing.
- Requires the board or other governing body of a community corrections facility, if the board or other governing body establishes an advisory board, to reimburse advisory board members for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties on the advisory board; and provides that the advisory board members must serve without compensation.
- Repeals provisions that specify that the Department of Youth Services cannot change the purposes for which the Maumee and Mohican Youth Camps may be operated or significantly reduce their level of operations without General Assembly consent.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Delinquent child definition

#### Continuing law

Under continuing law, as used in the Juvenile Code (R.C. Chapter 2151.), "delinquent child" includes any of the following (R.C. 2151.02): (1) any child who violates any law of Ohio or the United States, or any ordinance or regulation of a political subdivision of the state, that would be a crime if committed by an adult, except if the child is a juvenile traffic offender (a JTO), (2) any child who violates any lawful order of a court made under the Juvenile Code, (3) any child who purchases or attempts to purchase a firearm illegally, or (4) any child who illegally obtains or attempts to obtain a tattooing service, body piercing service, or ear piercing service performed with an ear piercing gun without consent, or knowingly shows or gives false identification as to the name, age, or other identification of an individual who is under the age of 18 for the purpose of obtaining for that individual any such service.

#### Operation of the act

The act expands the definition of delinquent child to also include (R.C. 2151.02): (1) any child who is an "habitual truant" (see below) and who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant, and (2) any child who is a "chronic truant" (see below).

The act defines several truancy related terms for purposes of the Juvenile Code (R.C. 2151.011(B)(9), (18), (20), (25), (46), and (47), and R.C. 3321.01, 3313.48, and 3313.62 by reference--not in the act):

An "habitual truant" is any child "of compulsory school age" (see below) who is absent without "legitimate excuse for absence from the public school the child is supposed to attend" (see below) for five or more consecutive school days, seven or more school days in one school month, or 12 or more school days in a school year.

A "chronic truant" is any child of compulsory school age who is absent without legitimate excuse for absence from the public school the child is supposed to attend for seven or more consecutive school days, ten or more school days in one school month, or 15 or more school days in a school year.

A "legitimate excuse for absence from the public school the child is supposed to attend" includes, but is not limited to any of the following:

(1) The fact that the child in question has enrolled in and is attending another public or nonpublic school in Ohio or another state;

(2) The fact that the child in question is excused from attendance at school for any of the reasons specified in the Education Law under R.C. 3321.04;<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Under R.C. 3321.04, excuses from future attendance at or past absence from school or a special education program may be granted for the causes, by the authorities, and under the following conditions:

(1) The superintendent of the city or exempted village school district or the educational service center in which the child resides may excuse the child from attendance for any part of the remainder of the current school year upon satisfactory showing of either of the following facts: (a) that the child's bodily or mental condition does not permit attendance at school or a special education program during such period; this fact is certified in writing by a licensed physician or, in the case of a mental condition, by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, licensed school psychologist, or a certificated school psychologist; and provision is made for appropriate instruction of the child, (b) that the child is being instructed at home by a person qualified to teach the branches in which instruction is required, and any additional branches that the advancement and needs of the child, in the opinion of such superintendent, may require.

(2) The State Board of Education may adopt rules authorizing the superintendent of schools of the district in which the child resides to excuse a child over 14 years of age from attendance for a future limited period for the purpose of performing necessary work directly and exclusively for the child's parents or legal guardians.

(3) The fact that the child in question has received an age and schooling certificate under R.C. 3331.01.

"Of compulsory school age" means a child between six and 18 years of age.

"School day" means the school day established by the State Board of Education.

The "school year" begins on the first day of July of each calendar year and closes on the 30th day of June of the succeeding calendar year.

A "school month" consists of four "school weeks," and a "school week" consists of five days.

### **Unruly child definition**

#### **Prior law**

Under prior law, as used in the Juvenile Code, "unruly child" was defined to include any of the following (R.C. 2151.022): (1) any child who does not subject the child's self to the reasonable control of the child's parents, teachers, guardian, or custodian, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient, (2) any child who is an habitual truant from home or school, (3) any child who so deports the child's self as to injure or endanger the child's own health or morals or the health or morals of others, (4) any child who attempts to enter the marriage relation in any state without the consent of the child's parents, custodian, or legal guardian or other legal authority, (5) any child who is found in a disreputable place, visits or patronizes a place prohibited by law, or associates with vagrant, vicious, criminal, notorious, or immoral persons, (6) any child who engages in an occupation prohibited by law or is in a situation dangerous to life or limb or injurious to the child's own health or morals or to the health or morals of others, and (7) any child who violates a law, other than the law against the purchase or attempt to purchase a firearm that is applicable only to a child.

#### **Operation of the act**

The act modifies the provision described in clause (2) of the preceding paragraph so that it refers to any child who is *persistently truant from home*

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*(3) The board of education of the city or exempted village school district or the governing board of the educational service center in which a public school is located or the governing authorities of a private or parochial school may in the rules governing the discipline in such schools, prescribe the authority by which and the manner in which any child may be excused for absence from such school for good and sufficient reasons.*

(instead of a child who is "an habitual truant from home or school"). The act then expands the definition of unruly child to also include any child who is an "habitual truant" from school and who previously has not been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant. See "*Delinquent child definition*," above for the act's definition of "habitual truant." (R.C. 2151.022 and 2151.011(B)(18).)

### *Juvenile court jurisdiction*

#### *Prior law*

Under prior law, the *exclusive original jurisdiction* of each juvenile court included jurisdiction concerning any child who on or about the date specified in the complaint is alleged to be a JTO or a delinquent, unruly, abused, neglected, or dependent child and jurisdiction to hear and determine *all criminal cases charging adults with the violation of any section of the Juvenile Code*.

#### *Operation of the act*

The act modifies the juvenile court jurisdiction provisions as follows:

(1) It modifies the existing provision that specifies that juvenile courts have exclusive original jurisdiction concerning any child who, on or about the date specified in the complaint, is alleged to be a JTO or a delinquent, unruly, abused, neglected, or dependent child so that the provision specifies that juvenile courts have exclusive original jurisdiction concerning any such child *and, based on and in relation to the allegation pertaining to the child, concerning the parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child who is alleged to be an unruly or delinquent child for being an habitual or chronic truant* (R.C. 2151.23(A)(1) and 4109.13(D)).

(2) It expands the existing provision that specifies that juvenile courts have exclusive original jurisdiction to hear and determine all criminal cases in which an adult is charged with contributing to the nonsupport of dependents, endangering children involving the abuse of a child, or contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child, provided the charge is not included in an indictment that also charges the alleged adult offender with the commission of a felony arising out of the same actions that are the basis of the alleged violation. Under the act, the provision specifies that, in addition, juvenile courts also have exclusive original jurisdiction to hear and determine all criminal cases in which an adult is charged with the offense of "parental education neglect," provided the charge is not included in an indictment that also charges the alleged adult offender with the commission of a felony arising out of the same actions that are the basis of the alleged violation of the parental education neglect (R.C. 2151.23(A)(6)).

(3) It grants juvenile courts exclusive original jurisdiction to hear and determine violations of the prohibition against a parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child of compulsory school age failing to sending the child to school as required by law (see "School Attendance Law," below) (R.C. 2151.23(A)(14), 3321.38(A), and 4109.13(D)).

(4) It grants juvenile courts exclusive original jurisdiction to exercise jurisdiction and authority over the parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child alleged to be a delinquent child, unruly child, or JTO, based on and in relation to the allegation pertaining to the child (R.C. 2151.23(A)(15)).

**Juvenile court hearings concerning alleged unruly and delinquent children and juvenile traffic offenders**

**Prior law**

Prior law provided that a juvenile court could conduct its hearings in an informal manner and could adjourn its hearings from time to time and that in the hearing of any case the general public could be excluded and only those persons admitted who have a direct interest in the case. All cases involving children were required to be heard separately and apart from the trial of cases against adults. The court was required to hear and determine all cases of children without a jury.

If the court at the adjudicatory hearing found beyond a reasonable doubt that the child was a delinquent or unruly child or a JTO, the court was required to proceed immediately, or at a postponed hearing, to hear the evidence as to the proper disposition to be made of the child under law. If the court did not find the child to be a delinquent or unruly child or a JTO, it was required to order that the complaint be dismissed and that the child be discharged from any detention or restriction previously ordered. (R.C. 2151.35.)

**Operation of the act**

The act specifies that, if a complaint alleges a child to be a delinquent child, unruly child, or JTO, the juvenile court must require the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child to attend all proceedings of the court regarding the child. If a parent, guardian, or custodian fails to so attend, the court may find the parent, guardian, or custodian in contempt. (R.C. 2151.35(A)(1).)

The act also modifies certain of the juvenile court hearing procedures in relation to cases in which a child is alleged to be an unruly or delinquent child by reason of being an habitual or chronic truant, as follows:

(1) It specifies that the requirement that all cases involving children be heard separately and apart from the trial of cases against adults does not apply regarding cases involving children who are alleged to be unruly or delinquent children for being habitual or chronic truants (R.C. 2151.35(A)(1)).

(2) It specifies that the requirement that juvenile courts must hear and determine all cases of children without a jury does not apply in cases involving a complaint that jointly alleges that a child is an unruly or delinquent child for being an habitual or chronic truant and that a parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child failed to cause the child's attendance at school. In a case of that type, the act provides for jury trials, in specified circumstances, of adult cases before a juvenile court. Under the act, the adult may demand a jury trial only if the adult is charged with a crime. (R.C. 2151.35(A)(1) and 2151.47.)

(3) It specifies that, if the juvenile court at the adjudicatory hearing finds beyond a reasonable doubt that the child is an unruly child for being an habitual truant, or that the child is an unruly child for being an habitual truant and that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has failed to cause the child's attendance at school in violation of the School Attendance Law, as modified by the act (see "School Attendance Law," below), the court must proceed to hold a hearing to hear the evidence as to the proper disposition to be made in regard to the child under the law governing unruly child dispositions and the proper action to take in regard to the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child under a provision of the act (see "Unruly child dispositions," below) (R.C. 2151.35(A)(1)).

(4) It specifies that, if the juvenile court at the adjudicatory hearing finds beyond a reasonable doubt that the child is a delinquent child for being a chronic truant or for being an habitual truant who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant, or that the child is a delinquent child for either of those reasons and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has failed to cause the child's attendance at school in violation of the School Attendance Law, as modified by the act, the court must proceed to hold a hearing to hear the evidence as to the proper disposition to be made in regard to the child under the law governing delinquent child dispositions and the proper action to take in regard to the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child under a provision of the act (see "Delinquent child dispositions," below) (R.C. 2151.35(A)(1)).

## Delinquent child dispositions

### Continuing law

Under continuing law, if a child is adjudicated a delinquent child, generally the court may make any of the following orders of disposition (R.C. 2151.355(A)):

(1) Any order authorized as a disposition for an abused, neglected, or dependent child;

(2) Place the child on probation under any conditions that the court prescribes;

(3) Commit the child to the temporary custody of any school, camp, institution, or other facility operated for the care of delinquent children by the county, by a district, or by a private agency or organization, within or without Ohio, that is authorized and qualified to provide the care, treatment, or placement required;

(4) If the child is adjudicated a delinquent child for committing an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult or for the underage purchase of a firearm, commit the child to the legal custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) for institutionalization or institutionalization in a secure facility for a period determined by the seriousness of the violation, whether a firearm was involved in the violation, and whether the child was involved in gang activity;

(5) Impose a fine and costs in accordance with a statutorily specified schedule;

(6) Require the child to make restitution for all or part of the property damage caused by the child's delinquent act and for all or part of the value of the property that was the subject of any delinquent act the child committed that would be a theft offense if committed by an adult.

(7) Subject to the license suspension provision described below, suspend or revoke the child's driver's license, probationary driver's license, or temporary instruction permit or suspend or revoke the registration of all motor vehicles registered in the child's name.

(8) If the child is adjudicated a delinquent child for committing an act that, if committed by an adult, would be a criminal offense that would qualify the adult as an eligible offender for electronically monitored house arrest, impose a period of electronically monitored house detention that does not exceed the maximum

sentence of imprisonment that could be imposed upon an adult who commits the same act;

(9) Impose a period of day reporting in which the child is required each day to report to and leave a center or other approved reporting location at specified times in order to participate in work, education or training, treatment, and other approved programs at the center or outside the center;

(10) Impose a period of electronically monitored house arrest;

(11) Impose a period of community service of up to 500 hours;

(12) Impose a period in an alcohol or drug treatment program with a level of security for the child as determined necessary by the court;

(13) Impose a period of intensive supervision, in which the child is required to maintain frequent contact with a person appointed by the court to supervise the child while the child is seeking or maintaining employment and participating in training, education, and treatment programs as the order of disposition;

(14) Impose a period of basic supervision, in which the child is required to maintain contact with a person appointed to supervise the child in accordance with sanctions imposed by the court;

(15) Impose a period of drug and alcohol use monitoring;

(16) Impose a period in which the court orders the child to observe a curfew;

(17) Require the child to obtain a high school diploma, a certificate of high school equivalence, or employment;

(18) If the court obtains the assent of the victim of the criminal act committed by the child, require the child to participate in a reconciliation or mediation program that includes a meeting in which the child and the victim may discuss the criminal act, discuss restitution, and consider other sanctions for the criminal act;

(19) Commit the child to the temporary or permanent custody of the court;

(20) Make any further disposition that the court finds proper, except that the child cannot be placed in a state correctional institution, county, multicounty, or municipal jail or workhouse, or other place in which an adult convicted of a crime, under arrest, or charged with a crime is held.

In specified circumstances, the Juvenile Law authorizes other dispositions for the child adjudicated a delinquent child.

**Operation of the act**

The act adds an additional possible disposition for a delinquent child: the court may require the child to not be absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for five or more consecutive days, seven or more school days in one school month, or 12 or more school days in a school year (R.C. 2151.355(A)(23)).

The act expands the authorized dispositions of a delinquent child when the child is a chronic or habitual truant. The act specifies that, if a child is adjudicated a delinquent child for being a chronic truant or an habitual truant who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant (see "**Delinquent child definition**," above), all of the following apply (R.C. 2151.355(A)(24)):

(1) The court may make any order of disposition that is authorized for a delinquent child, except that the court may not commit the child to the temporary custody of a facility operated for the care of delinquent children unless the court determines that the child violated a lawful order in a delinquency or unruliness proceeding requiring the child to not be absent without legitimate excuse from the school the child is supposed to attend for five or more consecutive days, seven or more school days in one school month, or 12 or more school days in a school year;

(2) The court may require the child to participate in a truancy prevention mediation program.

(3) If the court determines that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has failed to cause the child's attendance at school in violation of the law that prohibits a parent, etc., from failing to send a child to school as required by law (see "**School Attendance Law**," below), the court may do either or both of the following: (a) require the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to participate in any community service program, preferably a community service program that requires the involvement of the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child in the school the child attends and (b) require the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to participate in a truancy prevention mediation program.

In the circumstances described above in (3), in addition to any order of disposition it makes, the court must warn the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child that any subsequent adjudication of the child as an unruly or delinquent child for being an habitual or chronic truant may result in a criminal charge against the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child for

contributing to the nonsupport of dependents or contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child (R.C. 2151.355(B)(2)).

The act also makes a technical change regarding the numbering of the possible delinquency dispositions (R.C. 2151.355(A)(9)). The act makes nonsubstantive changes to a few sections to conform them to its delinquent child adjudication provisions described above (R.C. 2151.18(B)(4), 2151.354(A)(5), 2151.356(A)(7), 2151.3512, and 3730.99(C)).

### **Notice to school officials of certain delinquency adjudications**

#### **Prior law**

Prior law provided that, within ten days after completion of the adjudication, the court was required to give written notice of an adjudication that a child is a delinquent child to the superintendent of a city, local, exempted village, or joint vocational school district if the basis of the adjudication was the commission of an act that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult and that was committed by the delinquent child when the child was 16 years of age or older and if the act was any of the following: (1) illegal conveyance or possession of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance on school premises that related to property owned or controlled by, or to an activity held under the auspices of, the board of education of that school district, (2) carrying a concealed weapon or a substantially similar municipal ordinance violation that was committed on property owned or controlled by, or at an activity held under the auspices of, the board of education of that school district, (3) a drug trafficking or drug possession violation committed on property owned or controlled by, or at an activity held under the auspices of, the board of education of that school district and that was not a minor drug possession offense, (4) aggravated murder, murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, felonious assault, rape, or gross sexual imposition, or a violation of the former offense of felonious sexual penetration, committed on property owned or controlled by, or at an activity held under the auspices of, the board of education of that school district, if the victim at the time was an employee of that board of education, or (5) complicity in any violation described in clause (1) to (4) of this paragraph that was alleged to have been committed in the manner described in any of those clauses, regardless of whether the act of complicity was committed on property owned or controlled by, or at an activity held under the auspices of, the board of education of that school district (R.C. 2151.355(K)).

#### **Operation of the act**

The act adds new school officials who must receive the notice, reduces the age of the delinquent children in relation to whom the notice must be given,

expands the list of delinquent acts in relation to which the notice must be provided, and specifies the information that must be in the notice as follows (R.C. 2151.355(K)):

(1) Under the act, the notice must be given to the principal of the school the child attends, in addition to the superintendent of the school district.

(2) Under the act, the notice must be given to the specified school officials regarding any child who is adjudicated a delinquent child for committing, *when the child was 14 years of age or older*, any of the following acts: (a) any act that would be a felony or an offense of violence if committed by an adult, (b) any act in the commission of which the child used or brandished a firearm, (c) any act constituting corruption of a minor (see **COMMENT**), sexual imposition, importuning, voyeurism, public indecency, soliciting, soliciting after a positive HIV test, loitering to engage in solicitation, or loitering to engage in solicitation after a positive HIV test and that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, (d) carrying a concealed weapon or a substantially similar municipal ordinance violation that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult and that was committed on property owned or controlled by, or at an activity held under the auspices of, the board of education of the involved school district, (e) a drug trafficking or drug possession violation that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, that was committed on property owned or controlled by, or at an activity held under the auspices of, the board of education of the involved school district, and that is not a minor drug possession offense, or (f) complicity in any violation described in clause (a) to (e) of this paragraph that was alleged to have been committed in the manner described in any of those clauses, regardless of whether the activity was committed on property owned or controlled by, or at an activity held under the auspices of, the board of education of the involved school district.

(3) The notice must include the name of the child who was adjudicated to be a delinquent child, the child's age at the time the child committed the act that was the basis of the adjudication, and identification of the violation of the law or ordinance that was the basis of the adjudication.

### **Unruly child dispositions**

#### **Continuing law**

Continuing law provides that, if a child is adjudicated an unruly child, the court may: (1) make any dispositions authorized for dependent, neglected, and abused children, (2) place the child on probation under any conditions that the court prescribes, (3) suspend or revoke the child's driver's license, probationary driver's license, or temporary instruction permit and suspend or revoke the

registration of all motor vehicles registered in the child's name, (4) commit the child to the temporary or permanent custody of the court, and (5) if, after making a disposition under clause (1), (2), or (3), the court finds upon further hearing that the child is not amenable to treatment or rehabilitation under that disposition, make specified dispositions otherwise authorized for a delinquent child, except that the child may not be committed to or placed in a secure correctional facility and that commitment to or placement in a detention home generally may not exceed 24 hours. In specified circumstances, the Juvenile Law authorizes other dispositions for the child adjudicated an unruly child. (R.C. 2151.354.)

### **Operation of the act**

**Dispositions relating to the child.** The act expands the dispositions that, in specified circumstances, may be made of a child who is adjudicated an unruly child. Under the act, if a child is adjudicated an unruly child for being an "habitual truant" (see "**Unruly child definition,**" above), in addition to or in lieu of imposing any other order of disposition authorized by law for unruly children, the court may do any of the following (R.C. 2151.354(C)(1)): (1) order the board of education of the child's school district or the governing board of the educational service center in the child's school district to require the child to attend an alternative school if an alternative school has been established in the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school, (2) require the child to participate in any academic program or community service program, (3) require the child to participate in a drug abuse or alcohol abuse counseling program, (4) require that the child receive appropriate medical or psychological treatment or counseling, or (5) make any other order that the court finds proper to address the child's habitual truancy, including an order requiring the habitually truant child to not be absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for five or more consecutive days, seven or more school days in one school month, or 12 or more school days in a school year and including an order requiring the child to participate in a truancy prevention mediation program.

The act also changes the reference to the types of delinquent child dispositions that may be made of an unruly child who, after being subjected to an unruly child disposition, is found to be unamenable to treatment or rehabilitation under the unruly child disposition. Previously, the reference indicated that the delinquent child dispositions that could be used in those circumstances were any dependent, neglected, or abused child disposition, placement on probation, commitment to DYS, imposition of a fine and costs, imposition of a restitution order, suspension or revocation of the child's driver's license or vehicle registration, imposition of a period of electronically monitored house detention, and imposition of a period of day reporting, provided that no commitment could be made to a secure correctional facility and detention home commitment generally

could not exceed 24 hours. The act eliminates the reference to the availability of a DYS commitment. (R.C. 2151.354(A)(5).)

**Dispositions relating to the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child.** If a child is adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant and the court determines that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has failed to cause the child's attendance at school in violation of law, in addition to any order of disposition authorized by law, the court: (1) may require the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to participate in any community service program, preferably a community service program that requires the involvement of the parent, guardian, or other person having custody of the child in the school attended by the child, (2) may require the parent, guardian, or other person to participate in a truancy prevention mediation program, and (3) must warn the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child that any subsequent adjudication of the child as an unruly or delinquent child for being an habitual or chronic truant may result in a criminal charge against the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child for aiding, abetting, inducing, causing, encouraging, or contributing to a child becoming a dependent child or a neglected child, aiding, abetting, inducing, causing, encouraging, or contributing to a child becoming an unruly child or a delinquent child, or acting in a way tending to cause a child to become an unruly child or a delinquent child. (R.C. 2151.354(C)(2).)

### **Juvenile traffic offender dispositions**

#### **Prior and continuing law**

Continuing law provides that, if a child is adjudicated a JTO, the court may make any of the following orders of disposition: (1) impose a fine and costs in accordance with a statutorily specified schedule, (2) suspend the child's driver's license, probationary driver's license, or temporary instruction permit or the registration of all motor vehicles registered in the child's name for the period that the court prescribes, (3) revoke the child's driver's license, probationary driver's license, or temporary instruction permit or the registration of all motor vehicles registered in the child's name, (4) place the child on probation, (5) require the child to make restitution for all damages caused by the child's traffic violation or any part of the damages, and (6) if the child is adjudicated a JTO for committing a state OMVI violation or of a violation of substantially comparable municipal ordinance, commit the child, for not longer than five days, to the temporary custody of a detention home or district detention home, or a school, camp, institution, or other facility for children operated in whole or in part for the care of JTOs. Under prior law, if, after making a disposition under clauses (1) to (6), the court found upon further hearing that the child failed to comply with the orders of

the court and the child's operation of a motor vehicle constituted the child a danger to the child and to others, the court could make any of a list of specified delinquent child dispositions, except that the child generally could not be committed to or placed in a secure correctional facility and commitment to or placement in a detention home could not exceed 24 hours.

Under continuing law, if a child is adjudicated a JTO for committing state OMVI, the court must suspend or revoke the child's temporary instruction permit, probationary driver's license, or driver's license for a period of time prescribed by the court or, at the discretion of the court, until the child attends and satisfactorily completes a drug abuse or alcohol abuse education, intervention, or treatment program specified by the court. If a child is adjudicated a JTO for committing state OMVUAC, the court must suspend the child's temporary instruction permit, probationary driver's license, or driver's license for a period of not less than 60 days nor more than two years. If a child is adjudicated a JTO for committing a seat belt violation, the court must impose the appropriate fine and, in certain circumstances, cannot impose a fine but may place the child on probation. (R.C. 2151.356.)

### **Operation of the act**

The act changes the reference in prior law to the types of delinquent child dispositions that may be made of a JTO who, after being subjected to a JTO disposition, is found to have failed to comply with the court's orders and to constitute a danger through the operation of a motor vehicle. Previously, the reference indicated that the delinquent child dispositions that could be used in those circumstances were any dependent, neglected, or abused child disposition, placement on probation, commitment to DYS, imposition of a fine and costs, imposition of a restitution order, suspension or revocation of the child's driver's license or vehicle registration, imposition of a period of electronically monitored house detention, and commitment of the child to the temporary or permanent custody of the court, provided that generally, no commitment could be made to a secure correctional facility and detention home commitment could not exceed 24 hours. The act eliminates the references to the availability of a DYS commitment, imposition of a fine and costs, and imposition of a restitution order. (R.C. 2151.356(A)(7).)

### **Restraint of control of child's parent, guardian, or custodian**

#### **Prior law**

Under prior law, in any proceeding in which a child had been adjudicated a delinquent, unruly, abused, neglected, or dependent child, the court, upon the application of a party or on its own motion, could make an order restraining or

otherwise controlling the conduct of any parent, guardian, or other custodian in the relationship of that individual to the child if the court found such an order was necessary to: (1) control any conduct or relationship that would be detrimental or harmful to the child, and (2) where that conduct or relationship would tend to defeat the execution of the order of disposition to be made. The court was required to give due notice of the application or motion and the grounds for it, and an opportunity to be heard, to the person against whom the order is directed. (R.C. 2151.359.)

### **Operation of the act**

The act modifies the grounds for the issuance of an order restraining or otherwise controlling the conduct of a parent, guardian, or other custodian to specify that the court, upon the application or upon its own motion, may issue the order if it finds both of the following: (1) an order of that nature is necessary to control any conduct or other relationship that will be detrimental or harmful to the child, and (2) that conduct or relationship will tend to defeat the execution of the order of disposition made or to be made.

The act specifies that the authority to issue an order under this provision and an order made under that authority that restrains or otherwise controls the conduct of a parent, guardian, or other custodian is in addition to the authority to make an order under the act's provisions expanding the authorized dispositions for children who are adjudicated as delinquent or unruly children because they are a chronic truant or an habitual truant, as described above in "**Delinquent child dispositions**" and "**Unruly child dispositions**" and to any order made under either provision. The act retains the existing notification and hearing provisions relative to an application or motion for the order. (R.C. 2151.359.)

### **Places in which an alleged or adjudicated habitual or chronic truant may be held**

#### **Taking the child into custody**

**Continuing law.** A person taking a child into custody must, with all reasonable speed, either release the child to the child's parents, guardian, or other custodian or bring the child to the court or deliver the child to a place of detention or shelter care designated by the court and promptly give statutorily specified notice of the placement to a parent, guardian, or other custodian and to the court. Before taking either of these actions, a person taking a child into custody may hold the child for processing purposes in a county, multicounty, or municipal jail or workhouse, or other place where an adult convicted of crime, under arrest, or charged with crime is held for either of the following periods of time:

(1) For a period not to exceed six hours, if the child is alleged to be a delinquent child for the commission of an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult;

(2) For a period not to exceed three hours, if the child is alleged to be a delinquent child for the commission of an act that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult.

In either situation, the child must remain beyond the range of touch of all adult detainees, be visually supervised by jail or workhouse personnel at all times during the detention, and not be handcuffed or otherwise physically secured to a stationary object during the detention. (R.C. 2151.311(A) and (C)(1).)

**Operation of the act.** The act permits a person taking a child into custody to hold the child for processing purposes in a county, multicounty, or municipal jail or workhouse, or other place where an adult convicted of crime, under arrest, or charged with crime is held for a period not to exceed three hours, if the child is alleged to be a delinquent child for being a chronic truant or an habitual truant who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant. The other criteria regarding how the child must be detained would apply. (R.C. 2151.311(C)(1)(b).)

#### **Places of detention for delinquent children**

**Continuing law.** A child alleged to be or adjudicated a delinquent child may be held only in the following places (R.C. 2151.312(A) and (B)):

- (1) A certified family foster home or a home approved by the court;
- (2) A facility operated by a certified child welfare agency;
- (3) A detention home or center for delinquent children that is under the direction or supervision of the court or other public authority or of a private agency and approved by the court;
- (4) Any other suitable place designated by the court.

**Operation of the act.** Under the act, a child alleged to be or adjudicated a delinquent child for chronic truancy may not be held in a detention home or center for delinquent children unless the child violated a lawful court order issued as a delinquency disposition requiring the child to not be absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for five or more consecutive days, seven or more school days in one school month, or 12 or more school days in a school year. A child alleged to be or adjudicated a delinquent

child for being an habitual truant who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant may not be held in a detention home or center for delinquent children unless the child violated a lawful order under a previous unruly child disposition that was issued to address the truancy or required the child to not be absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for five or more consecutive days, seven or more school days in one school month, or 12 or more school days in a school year. (R.C. 2151.312(B).)

### **Maintenance and inspection of juvenile court records**

#### **Record-keeping requirements and inspection**

**Continuing law.** Continuing law requires each juvenile court to maintain records of all official cases brought before it, including an appearance docket, a journal, and a cashbook, to maintain a separate docket for traffic cases, and to record all traffic cases on the separate docket instead of on the general appearance docket. Continuing law also specifies that a record must be made of all testimony and other oral proceedings in each juvenile court that are held pursuant to specified provisions that pertain to the permanent custody of an abused, neglected, or dependent child and must be made upon request in all other cases. (R.C. 2151.18(A)(1) and 2151.35(A).)

**Operation of the act.** The act expands the record-keeping requirements of juvenile courts to also require each court to maintain in all official cases a record of all testimony and other oral proceedings. In cases pertaining to an alleged delinquent child, the act also requires each court to maintain arrest and custody records, complaints, journal entries, and hearing summaries. (R.C. 2151.18(A)(1).)

#### **Destruction of fingerprints, photographs, and arrest or custody records**

**Continuing law.** Continuing law contains restrictions on the taking of fingerprints and photographs of a child in the investigation of a violation of law, imposes restrictions on the use and release of fingerprints and photographs that are taken in accordance with those restrictions and the use of the records of the arrest or custody that was the basis for the taking of the fingerprints or photographs, and provides rules and procedures for the disposition of fingerprints, photographs, and arrest/custody records that are so used. The rules and procedures for the disposition of the fingerprints, photographs, and arrest/custody records generally permit their retention, and use, for specified periods of time and, upon the expiration of the applicable specified period, generally require that the fingerprints and photographs, all copies of the fingerprints and photographs, and all records of the arrest or custody that was the basis of the taking of the fingerprints or

photographs must be removed from the child's file and delivered to the juvenile court. All fingerprints of a child, photographs of a child, records of an arrest or custody of a child, and copies that are so delivered to a juvenile court must be destroyed by the court. (R.C. 2151.313.)

**Operation of the act.** The act enacts a new provision in the law that currently governs the taking, retention, use, and disposition of fingerprints and photographs of a child in the investigation of a violation of law and of the records of an arrest or custody that was the basis of the taking of the fingerprints or photographs. Under the act, when any such fingerprints, photographs, arrest/custody records, and copies are returned to the appropriate juvenile court upon the expiration of the applicable period for which they may be retained and used, the court, as under continuing law, generally must destroy the fingerprints, photographs, records, and copies, *provided that, if a complaint is filed against the child in relation to any act to which the records pertain, the court must maintain all arrest/custody records so delivered for at least three years after the final disposition of the case or after the case becomes inactive.* (R.C. 2151.313(B)(5).)

### **Sealing or expungement of juvenile records**

#### **Sealing of records under prior and continuing law**

Prior law specified that, two years after the termination of any order made by a juvenile court or two years after the unconditional discharge of a person from DYS or another institution or facility to which the person may have been committed, the court that issued the order or committed the person was required to do one of the following: (1) if the person was adjudicated an unruly child, order the record of the person sealed, or (2) if the person was adjudicated a delinquent child or a JTO, either order the record of the person sealed or send the person notice of the person's right to have that record sealed. Under continuing law, for purposes of this provision, "seal a record" means to remove a record from the main file of similar records and to secure it in a separate file that contains only sealed records and that is accessible only to the juvenile court. Under continuing law, a record that is sealed must be destroyed by all persons and governmental bodies except the juvenile court. A court must send the notice described in this paragraph within 90 days after the expiration of the specified two-year period by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person at the person's last known address. The notice must state that the person may apply to the court for an order to seal the person's record, explain what sealing a record means, and explain the possible consequences of not having the record sealed. (R.C. 2151.358(A) to (C).)

Under continuing law, at any time after the two-year period described in the preceding paragraph has elapsed, any person who has been adjudicated a

delinquent child or a JTO may apply to the court for an order to seal the person's record. The court must hold a hearing on each application within 60 days after it is received. Notice of the hearing must be given to the prosecuting attorney and to any other public office or agency known to have a record of the prior adjudication. If the court finds that the rehabilitation of the person who was adjudicated a delinquent child or a JTO has been attained to a satisfactory degree, the court may order the record of the person sealed. (R.C. 2151.358(D).)

Under continuing law, if the court orders the adjudication record of a person sealed pursuant to the provisions described in either of the two preceding paragraphs, the court must order that the proceedings in the case in which the person was adjudicated a JTO, a delinquent child, or an unruly child be deemed never to have occurred. All index references to the case and the person must be deleted, and the person and the court properly may reply that no record exists with respect to the person upon any inquiry in the matter. Inspection of records ordered sealed may be permitted by the court only upon application by the person who is the subject of the sealed records and only by the persons that are named in that application. (R.C. 2151.358(E).)

Continuing law, unchanged by the act, also specifies procedures by which a person who has been arrested and charged with being a delinquent child or a JTO and who is *adjudicated not guilty of the charges* or *has the charges dismissed* may apply to the court for an expungement of the record in the case (R.C. 2151.358(F) and (I)).

**Notice and effect of sealing or expungement order under continuing law**

The court must send notice of an order to expunge or seal to any public office or agency that the court has reason to believe may have a record of the expunged or sealed record. Except as described in the next paragraph, an order to seal or expunge applies to every public office or agency that has a record of the prior adjudication or arrest, regardless of whether it receives notice of the hearing on the expungement or sealing of the record or a copy of the order. Except as described in the next paragraph, upon the written request of a person whose record has been expunged or sealed and the presentation of a copy of the order to expunge or seal, a public office or agency must destroy its record of the prior adjudication or arrest, except a record of the adjudication or arrest that is maintained for compiling statistical data and that does not contain any reference to the person who is the subject of the order to expunge or seal.

Notwithstanding any provision of the Sealing and Expungement Law that requires otherwise, a board of education of a city, local, exempted village, or joint vocational school district that maintains records of an individual who has been

permanently excluded is permitted to maintain records regarding an adjudication that the individual is a delinquent child that was used as the basis for the individual's permanent exclusion, regardless of a court order to seal the record. An order to seal the record of an adjudication that an individual is a delinquent child does not revoke the adjudication order of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to permanently exclude the individual who is the subject of the sealing order. Such an order may be presented to a district superintendent as evidence to support the contention that the superintendent should recommend that the permanent exclusion of the individual who is the subject of the sealing order be revoked. Except as otherwise described in this paragraph or as authorized by R.C. 3301.121 and 3313.662, any school employee in possession of or having access to the sealed adjudication records of an individual that were the basis of a permanent exclusion of the individual is subject to the prohibition described in the next paragraph. (R.C. 2151.358(G) and (K).)

An officer or employee of the state or any of its political subdivisions who knowingly releases, disseminates, or makes available for any purpose involving employment, bonding, licensing, or education to any person or to any department, agency, or other instrumentality of the state or of any of its political subdivisions any information or other data concerning any arrest, complaint, trial, hearing, adjudication, or correctional supervision, the records of which have been expunged or sealed pursuant to the above-described provisions, is guilty of divulging confidential information, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree (R.C. 2151.358(J)).

#### **Effect of judgment in juvenile court--continuing law**

The judgment rendered by a court under the Juvenile Law does not impose any of the civil disabilities ordinarily imposed by conviction of a crime in that the child is not a criminal by reason of the adjudication, and no child may be charged with or convicted of a crime in any court except as provided by the Juvenile Law. The disposition of a child under the judgment rendered or any evidence given in court does not operate to disqualify a child in any future civil service examination, appointment, or application. Evidence of a judgment rendered and the disposition of a child under the judgment is not admissible to impeach the credibility of the child in any action or proceeding. Otherwise, the disposition of a child under the judgment rendered or any evidence given in court is admissible as evidence for or against the child in any action or proceeding in any court in accordance with the Rules of Evidence and also may be considered by any court as to the matter of sentence or to the granting of probation, and a court may consider the judgment rendered and the disposition of a child under that judgment for purposes of determining whether the child, for a future criminal conviction or guilty plea, is a repeat violent offender. (R.C. 2151.358(H).)

### Operation of the act

The act modifies the juvenile record sealing and expungement law as follows:

(1) It specifies that the provisions relating the sealing of the record of a child adjudicated a delinquent child *do not apply* if the delinquent act was an act that would be aggravated murder, murder, rape, sexual battery, or gross sexual imposition if committed by an adult (R.C. 2151.358(C)(1) and (D));

(2) As under continuing law, it provides that, if the adjudication record of a child is ordered sealed, all index references to the case generally must be destroyed. However, it enacts a new provision that permits the person, or the public office or agency, that maintains sealed records pertaining to an adjudication of a child as a delinquent child to maintain a manual or computerized index to the sealed records. The index may contain only the name of, and alphanumeric identifiers that relate to, the persons who are the subject of the sealed records, the word "sealed," and the name of the person, or the public office or agency with custody of the sealed records, and cannot contain the name of the delinquent act committed. The person with custody of the sealed records may make the index available only for the purposes described in the next paragraph and for purposes, unchanged by the act, that are contained in R.C. 2151.358(H). (R.C. 2151.358(E)(1) and (G)(2).)

(3) It expands the provision that specifies that inspection of records that have been ordered sealed may be permitted by the court only upon application by the person who is the subject of the sealed records and only by the persons named in that application. Under the act, in addition to inspection by those persons in that manner, if the records in question pertain to an act that would be an offense of violence that would be a felony if committed by an adult, any law enforcement officer or any prosecutor, or the assistants of a law enforcement officer or prosecutor, may inspect the records that have been ordered sealed for any valid law enforcement or prosecutorial purpose. (R.C. 2151.358(E)(2).)

(4) It clarifies that the offense of divulging confidential information that applies regarding expunged or sealed juvenile records applies only when the release, dissemination, or availability in question is not expressly permitted by law (R.C. 2151.358(J)).

## School Attendance Law

### Continuing law--background

Continuing law provides that, for purposes of the School Attendance Law (R.C. Chapter 3321.), a child between six and 18 years of age is "of compulsory school age." The compulsory school age of a child does not commence until the beginning of the term of the school, or other time in the school year fixed by the rules of the board of the district in which the child resides. Also, "parent," "guardian," or "other person having charge or care of a child" means either parent unless the parents are separated or divorced or their marriage has been dissolved or annulled, in which case "parent" means the parent who is the residential parent and legal custodian of the child. If the child is in the legal or permanent custody of a person or government agency, "parent" means that person or government agency. When a child is a resident of a home and the child's parent is not a resident of this state, "parent," "guardian," or "other person having charge or care of a child" means the head of the home. (R.C. 3321.01.)

Continuing law specifies that, except as described below in clauses (1) to (3), the parent of a child of compulsory school age must cause the child to attend a school in the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school, to participate in a special education program, or to otherwise cause the child to be instructed in accordance with law. Every child of compulsory school age must attend a school or participate in a special education program that conforms to the minimum standards prescribed by the State Board of Education until the child: (1) receives a diploma granted by the board of education or other governing authority, successfully completes the curriculum of any high school, or successfully completes the individualized education program developed for the student by any high school, (2) receives an age and schooling certificate, or (3) is excused from school under standards adopted by the State Board of Education or, if in need of special education, is excused from such programs. (R.C. 3321.03.)

Every parent of any child of compulsory school age who is not employed under an age and schooling certificate must send the child to a school or a special education program that conforms to the minimum standards prescribed by the State Board of Education, for the "full time the school or program attended is in session," which cannot be for less than 32 weeks per school year. The attendance must begin within the first week of the school term or program or within one week of the date on which the child begins to reside in the district or within one week after the child's withdrawal from employment. Excuses from future attendance at or past absence from school or a special education program may be granted for the causes, by the authorities, and under the following conditions (R.C. 3321.04):

(1) The superintendent of the city or exempted village school district or the educational service center in which the child resides may excuse the child from attendance for any part of the remainder of the current school year upon satisfactory showing of either of the following facts: (a) that the child's bodily or mental condition does not permit attendance at school or a special education program during that period; this fact is certified in writing by a licensed physician or, in the case of a mental condition, by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, licensed school psychologist or a certificated school psychologist; and provision is made for appropriate instruction of the child, or (b) that the child is being instructed at home by a person qualified to teach the branches in which instruction is required, and such additional branches, as the advancement and needs of the child may, in the opinion of such superintendent, require. All such excuses become void and are subject to recall upon the removal of the disability of the child or the cessation of proper home instruction; and thereupon the child or the child's parents may be proceeded against after due notice whether such excuse be recalled or not.

(2) The State Board of Education may adopt rules authorizing the superintendent of schools of the district in which the child resides to excuse a child over 14 years of age from attendance for a future limited period for the purpose of performing necessary work directly and exclusively for the child's parents or legal guardians.

(3) The board of education of the city or exempted village school district or the governing board of the educational service center in which a public school is located or the governing authorities of a private or parochial school may in the rules governing the discipline in the schools, prescribe the authority by which and the manner in which any child may be excused for absence from such school for good and sufficient reasons.

#### **Enforcement of school attendance law--prior law**

Prior law provided for school attendance officers and the powers and duties of those officers (R.C. 3321.14 to 3321.22). It provided that, when a board of education determined that a student in its district had been truant and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child failed to cause the student's attendance, the board could require the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to attend an educational program established pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education for the purpose of encouraging parental involvement in compelling the attendance of the child (R.C. 3321.19(A)).

On the request of the superintendent of schools or the board of education or when it otherwise comes to the officer's notice, a school attendance officer could

examine into any case of supposed truancy within the officer's district, and warn the child, if found truant, and the child's parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child, in writing, of the legal consequences of truancy if persisted in. When any child of compulsory school age, in violation of law, was not attending school, the attendance officer was required to notify the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of that child of that fact, and require the parent, guardian, or other person to cause the child to attend school forthwith; and the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child was required to cause the child's attendance at school. Upon the failure of the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child to do so, the attendance officer was required to either make complaint against the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child in any court of competent jurisdiction or if so directed by the superintendent or district board, send notice requiring that person's attendance at a parental education program established as described in the preceding paragraph. No parent could fail without good cause to attend such a program when served the notice. (R.C. 3321.19(A) and (B).)

Under prior law, when any child, in violation of law, was not attending a part-time school or class, the attendance officer was required to warn the child and the child's parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child in writing of the legal consequences of the child's failure to attend the school or class. If the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of that child then failed to cause the child's attendance at the part-time school or class, the attendance officer was required to make complaint against the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child in any court of competent jurisdiction. (R.C. 3321.20.)

Prior law prohibited any parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child of compulsory school age from violating R.C. 3321.01, 3321.03, 3321.04, 3321.07, 3321.10, 3321.19(A) or (B), 3321.20, or 3331.14. The court could require a person convicted of violating this prohibition to give a \$100 bond with sureties to the approval of the court, conditioned that the person will cause the child under the person's charge to attend upon instruction as provided by law, and remain as a pupil in the school or class during the term prescribed by law. The provision indicated that it did not relieve from prosecution and conviction any parent, guardian, or other person upon further violation "of such sections" and that a forfeiture of the required bond did not relieve the parent, guardian, or other person from prosecution and conviction upon further violation "of such sections." A person who violated the prohibition was required to be fined not less than \$5 nor more than \$20. (R.C. 3321.38 and 3321.99.)

If the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of a child, upon complaint for failure to cause the child to attend a school or part-time school or class, proved an inability to do so, the parent, guardian, or other person was required to be

discharged, and thereupon the school attendance officer was required to make complaint before the juvenile judge of the county that the child was a delinquent child or a dependent child. The juvenile judge was required to hear the complaint and, if the judge determined that the child was a delinquent or dependent child, was required to deal with the child according to the Juvenile Code. (R.C. 3321.22.)

### **Operation of the act--generally**

The act modifies R.C. 3321.22, as described in the preceding paragraph, so that it does not apply in habitual or chronic truant situations covered by the act and so that the complaint the attendance officer must file also may allege if appropriate that the child is an unruly child, and makes other changes to the provisions described above that pertain to enforcement of the School Attendance Law.

Under the act, when a board of education of any city, exempted village, local, joint vocational, or cooperative education school district or the governing board of any educational service center determines that a student in its district has been truant and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has failed to cause the student's attendance at school, the board may require the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child, as described in the next paragraph, to attend an educational program established pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education for the purpose of encouraging parental involvement in compelling the attendance of the child at school (R.C. 3321.19(B)).

On the request of the superintendent of schools, the superintendent of any educational service center, the board of education of any city, exempted village, local, joint vocational, or cooperative education school district, or the governing board of any educational service center or when it otherwise comes to the notice of the school attendance officer or other appropriate officer of the school district, the school attendance officer or other appropriate officer must examine into any case of supposed truancy within the district and must warn the child, if found truant, and the child's parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child, in writing, of the legal consequences of being an habitual or chronic truant (see "**Delinquent child definition**," above, for the meaning of those terms). When any child of compulsory school age, in violation of law, is not attending school, the attendance or other appropriate officer must notify the parent, guardian, or other person having care of that child of that fact, and require the parent, guardian, or other person to cause the child to attend school immediately. The parent, guardian, or other person must cause the child's attendance at school. Upon the failure of the parent, guardian, or other person to do so, the attendance officer or other appropriate officer, if so directed by the superintendent, the district board, or the educational service center governing board, must send notice requiring that

parent's, guardian's, or other person's attendance at a parental education program established as described in the preceding paragraph, and, subject to the provisions described in the next two paragraphs regarding habitual and chronic truants, may file a complaint against the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child in any court of competent jurisdiction. No parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child may fail without good cause to attend such a program when served notice as described in this paragraph. (R.C. 3321.19(B) and (C).)

Upon the failure of the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to cause the child's attendance at school, if the child is considered an habitual truant, the board of education of the school district or the governing board of the educational service center must do either or both of the following: (1) take any appropriate action as an intervention strategy contained in the policy developed by the board pursuant to the act, as described below in "**Board habitual truant attendance policy required by the act,**" or (2) file a complaint in the juvenile court of the county in which the child has a residence or legal settlement or in which the child is supposed to attend school jointly against the child and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child. The complaint must allege that the child is an unruly child for being an habitual truant, or is a delinquent child for being an habitual truant who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant, and that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has violated the prohibition contained in R.C. 3321.38, as described below. (R.C. 3321.19(D).)

Upon the failure of the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to cause the child's attendance at school, if the child is considered a chronic truant, the board of education of the school district or the governing board of the educational service center *must* file a complaint in the juvenile court of the county in which the child has a residence or legal settlement or in which the child is supposed to attend school jointly against the child and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child. The complaint must allege that the child is a delinquent child for being a chronic truant and that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has violated the prohibition contained in R.C. 3321.38, as described below. (R.C. 3321.19(E).)

**Board habitual truant attendance policy required by the act**

The act requires that, no later than August 31, 2000, the board of education of each city, exempted village, local, joint vocational, and cooperative education school district and the governing board of each educational service center must adopt a policy to guide employees of the school district or service center in addressing and ameliorating the attendance practice of any pupil who is an habitual truant. In developing the policy, the board must consult with the judge of

the juvenile court of the county or counties in which the district or board is located, with the parents, guardians, or other persons having care of the pupils attending school in the district, and with appropriate state and local agencies. The board must incorporate into the policy as an intervention strategy the assignment of an habitual truant to an alternative school if the board has established an alternative school.

The policy so developed may include as an intervention strategy any of the following actions, if appropriate: (1) providing a truancy intervention program for an habitual truant, (2) providing counseling for an habitual truant, (3) requesting or requiring a parent, guardian, or other person having care of an habitual truant to attend parental involvement programs, (4) requesting or requiring a parent, guardian, or other person having care of an habitual truant to attend truancy prevention mediation programs, (5) notification of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, and (6) taking legal action regarding the existing offense of parental education neglect, or under the provisions described below in "**Attendance officer duties under the act**" and "**Criminal prohibition under the act.**"

That act states that none of its provisions relative to the policy, as described above, may be construed to limit the duty or authority of a district board of education or governing body of an educational service center to develop other policies related to truancy or to limit the duty or authority of any employee of the school district or service center to respond to pupil truancy. (R.C. 3321.191.)

#### **Attendance officer duties under the act**

As under prior law, under the act, when any child, in violation of law, is not attending a part-time school or class, the attendance officer must warn the child and the child's parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child in writing of the legal consequences of the child's failure to attend such school or class. Under prior law, if the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of that child failed thereupon to cause the child's attendance at the part-time school or class, the attendance officer was required to make complaint against the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the child in *any court of competent jurisdiction*. Under the act, the complaint must be made *in the juvenile court of the county in which the child has a residence or legal settlement or in which the child is supposed to attend the part-time school or class*. (R.C. 3321.20.)

#### **Criminal prohibition under the act**

The act retains the existing prohibition against any parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child of compulsory school age violating any of a list of specified sections pertaining to compulsory education but modifies the list of

sections *so that it includes all divisions in R.C. 3321.19 instead of only divisions (A) and (B) of that section.*

The act modifies the existing procedural provisions that are related to the prohibition. Under the act, *the juvenile court* may require a person convicted of violating the prohibition to give a bond *of not more than \$500* with sureties to the approval of the court, conditioned that the person will cause the child under the person's charge to attend upon instruction as provided by law, and remain as a pupil in the school or class during the term prescribed by law. If the juvenile court adjudicates the child as an unruly or delinquent child for being an habitual or chronic truant, the court must warn the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child that any subsequent adjudication of that nature involving the child may result in a criminal charge against the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child for a violation of the prohibition against aiding, abetting, inducing, causing, encouraging, or contributing to a child becoming a dependent child or a neglected child or the prohibition against aiding, abetting, inducing, causing, encouraging, or contributing to a child becoming an unruly child or a delinquent child and against acting in a way tending to cause a child to become an unruly child or a delinquent child.

Finally, the act modifies the provision that indicates that R.C. 3321.38 does not relieve from prosecution and conviction any parent, guardian, or other person upon further violation "of such sections" and that a forfeiture of the required bond does not relieve the parent, guardian, or other person from prosecution and conviction upon further violation "of such sections." Under the act, the provision specifies that R.C. 3321.38 does not relieve from prosecution and conviction any parent, guardian, or other person upon further violation *of any provision listed in the prohibition, any provision of R.C. 2919.222 or 2919.24, or division (C) of R.C. 2919.21* (see the preceding paragraph) and that a forfeiture of the required bond does not relieve the parent, guardian, or other person from prosecution and conviction upon further violation *of any provision in any of those sections or that division.* (R.C. 3321.38.)

The act broadens the penalties for a parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child of compulsory school age who violates the School Attendance Law. Under prior law, the offender could be fined \$5 to \$20. The act permits a court to fine the offender up to \$500 and to order the offender to perform not more than 70 hours of community service work. (R.C. 3321.99.)

### **Filing of juvenile court complaint under the act**

The act enacts a new provision relative to the filing of a complaint in a juvenile court regarding a child who is an habitual or chronic truant. Under the

act, any person having knowledge of a child who appears to be an unruly or delinquent child for being an habitual or chronic truant may file a sworn complaint with respect to that child and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child in the juvenile court of the county in which the child has a residence or legal settlement or in which the child is supposed to attend public school. The sworn complaint may be upon information and belief and must contain the following allegations:

(1) That the child is an unruly child for being an habitual truant or the child is a delinquent child for being a chronic truant or an habitual truant who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant and, in addition, the particular facts upon which that allegation is based;

(2) That the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has failed to cause the child's attendance at school in violation of the prohibition contained in R.C. 3321.38, as described above in "**Criminal prohibition under the act**" and, in addition, the particular facts upon which that allegation is based. (R.C. 2151.27(A)(2).)

**Order under the act directing parent, etc., to appear at hearing and bring child**

When a complaint is filed in juvenile court that alleges that a child is an unruly or delinquent child for being an habitual or chronic truant and that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has failed to cause the child's attendance at school, the court must endorse upon the summons an order directing the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to appear personally at the hearing and directing the person having the physical custody or control of the child to bring the child to the hearing. The continuing provision that currently permits a juvenile court to endorse upon the summons an order directing the parent, guardian, or other person with whom the child may be to appear personally at the hearing and directing the person having the physical custody or control of the child to bring the child to the hearing will apply in all other cases. (R.C. 2151.28(E).)

**Related and conforming changes under the act**

The act amends two provisions to conform them to the changes described above relative to the School Attendance Law (R.C. 3321.14 and 3321.18).

**Reimbursement and compensation of community corrections facility advisory board members**

Under the act, if the board or other governing body of a community corrections facility establishes an advisory board, the board or other governing authority of the community corrections facility must reimburse advisory board members for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties on the advisory board. The act provides that the advisory board members must serve without compensation. (R.C. 5139.36(F).)

**Maumee and Mohican Youth Camps**

Under prior law, DYS was required to operate the institutions known on January 1, 1981, as the Maumee Youth Camp and the Mohican Youth Camp. Prior law prohibited DYS from changing the purpose for which the institutions were used or significantly reduce the level of operations at the institutions without the prior consent of the General Assembly. The act repeals this provision. (R.C. 5139.031--repealed.)

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**COMMENT**

The reference to the offense of corruption of a minor here is probably an error because a child never can be adjudicated a delinquent child for violating the prohibition contained in this offense. To violate the prohibition contained in the offense of corruption of a minor, the offender must be over 18 years of age. (R.C. 2907.04--not contained in the act.)

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**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	08-31-99	pp. 969-970
Reported, S. Judiciary	11-10-99	p. 1164
Passed Senate (24-9)	11-10-99	p. 1182
Reported, H. Judiciary	03-29-00	p. 1739
Passed House (75-21)	04-04-00	pp. 1747-1749
Senate concurred in House amendments (27-6)	04-05-00	pp. 1562-1564

00-SB181.123/jc

