

1 S.233

2 Introduced by Senators Nitka and Starr

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; mandatory school attendance

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to increase the mandatory age of
7 school attendance to 18 in half-year increments, beginning on July 1, 2013 and
8 ending on July 1, 2016.

9 An act relating to gradually increasing the mandatory age of school
10 attendance

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 * * * Legal School Age * * *

13 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1121 is amended to read:

14 § 1121. ATTENDANCE BY CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE REQUIRED

15 A person having the control of a child between the ages of six and 16 years,
16 183 days shall cause the child to attend a public school, an approved or
17 recognized independent school, an approved education program, or a home
18 study program for the full number of days for which that school is held, unless
19 the child:

20 (1) is mentally or physically unable so to attend; or

1 (2) ~~has completed the tenth grade; or~~

2 ~~(3)~~ is excused by the superintendent or a majority of the school directors
3 as provided in this chapter; or

4 ~~(4)~~(3) is enrolled in and attending a postsecondary school, as defined in
5 subdivision 176(b)(1) of this title, which is approved or accredited in Vermont
6 or another state.

7 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1121 is amended to read:

8 § 1121. ATTENDANCE BY CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE REQUIRED

9 A person having the control of a child between the ages of six and ~~16~~ 17
10 years, ~~183 days~~ shall cause the child to attend a public school, an approved or
11 recognized independent school, an approved education program, or a home
12 study program for the full number of days for which that school is held, unless
13 the child:

14 (1) is mentally or physically unable so to attend; or

15 (2) is excused by the superintendent or a majority of the school directors
16 as provided in this chapter; or

17 (3) is enrolled in and attending a postsecondary school, as defined in
18 subdivision 176(b)(1) of this title, which is approved or accredited in Vermont
19 or another state.

1 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 1121 is amended to read:

2 § 1121. ATTENDANCE BY CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE REQUIRED

3 A person having the control of a child between the ages of six and 17 years,
4 183 days shall cause the child to attend a public school, an approved or
5 recognized independent school, an approved education program, or a home
6 study program for the full number of days for which that school is held, unless
7 the child:

8 (1) is mentally or physically unable so to attend; or

9 (2) is excused by the superintendent or a majority of the school directors
10 as provided in this chapter; or

11 (3) is enrolled in and attending a postsecondary school, as defined in
12 subdivision 176(b)(1) of this title, which is approved or accredited in Vermont
13 or another state.

14 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1121 is amended to read:

15 § 1121. ATTENDANCE BY CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE REQUIRED

16 A person having the control of a child between the ages of six and ~~17~~ 18
17 years, ~~183 days~~ shall cause the child to attend a public school, an approved or
18 recognized independent school, an approved education program, or a home
19 study program for the full number of days for which that school is held, unless
20 the child:

21 (1) is mentally or physically unable so to attend; or

1 Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 1126 is amended to read:

2 § 1126. FAILURE TO ATTEND; NOTICE BY TEACHER

3 When a pupil ~~between the ages of six and 16 years~~ of legal school age as
4 established in section 1121 of this title, who is not excused or exempted from
5 school attendance, fails to enter school at the beginning ~~thereof~~ of the
6 academic year, or being enrolled, fails to continue to attend the same, and
7 when a pupil who ~~has become 16 years of~~ exceeds the legal school age
8 becomes enrolled in a public school and fails to attend, the teacher or principal
9 shall forthwith notify the superintendent or school directors, and the truant
10 officer, unless the teacher or principal is satisfied upon information that the
11 pupil is absent on account of sickness.

12 Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 1128(a) is amended to read:

13 (a) A superintendent may and the truant officer shall stop a child ~~between~~
14 ~~the ages of six and 16 years or a child 16 years of age or over and~~ of legal
15 school age or a child who exceeds the legal school age but is enrolled in public
16 school, wherever found during school hours, and shall, unless ~~such~~ the child is
17 excused or exempted from school attendance, take the child to the school
18 which she or he should attend.

19 Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A. § 1123(c) is amended to read:

20 (c) ~~The superintendent with the consent of a majority of the school board of~~
21 ~~the town in which the pupil resides, may excuse, in writing, a pupil who has~~

1 ~~reached the age of fifteen years and has completed the work required in the~~
2 ~~first six years of the elementary school course from further school attendance if~~
3 ~~his services are needed for the support of those dependent upon him, or for any~~
4 ~~other sufficient reason. [Repealed.]~~

5 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

6 (a) Sec. 1 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2013, but shall not apply to
7 a child who lawfully stopped attending school prior to that date.

8 (b) Sec. 2 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2014, but shall not apply to
9 a child who lawfully stopped attending school prior to that date.

10 (c) Sec. 3 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2015, but shall not apply to
11 a child who lawfully stopped attending school prior to that date.

12 (d) Sec. 4 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2016, but shall not apply to
13 a child who lawfully stopped attending school prior to that date.

14 (e) This section and Secs. 5 through 8 of this act shall take effect on July 1,
15 2012.