

1 S.253

2 Introduced by Senator Nitka

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; mandatory school attendance

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the
7 mandatory age of school attendance to 18 in half-year increments, beginning
8 on July 1, 2015 and ending on July 1, 2018.

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; Incremental Increases * * *

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 years,~~
10 ~~183 days~~ 17 years shall cause the child to attend a public school, an approved
11 or 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 years,~~
17 ~~183 days~~ 18 years shall cause the child to attend a public school, an approved
18 or 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 student ~~between the ages of six and 16 years~~ of the school age
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 of the academic year,
6 or being enrolled, fails to continue to attend the school, and when a student
7 ~~who is at least 16 years of~~ exceeds the established school age becomes enrolled
8 in a public school and fails to attend, the teacher or principal shall notify the
9 truant officer and either the superintendent or the school board unless the
10 teacher or principal is satisfied that the student is absent on account of illness.

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

12 (a) A superintendent may and the truant officer shall stop a child ~~between~~
13 ~~the ages of six and 16 years or a child 16 years of age or over and~~ of the school
14 age established in section 1121 of this title or a child who exceeds the
15 established school age but is enrolled in public school, wherever found during
16 school hours, and shall, unless ~~such~~ the child is excused or exempted from
17 school attendance, take the child to the school ~~which~~ that she or he should
18 attend.

