

By Representative Gottlieb

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to truancy; amending s.
3 229.8345, F.S.; defining a habitual truant;
4 amending s. 236.081, F.S.; amending procedures
5 that must be followed in determining the annual
6 allocation to each school district for
7 operation; requiring the average daily
8 attendance of the student membership in each
9 program to be calculated by school and by
10 district; requiring average daily attendance to
11 be used as the sole basis for determining the
12 base student allocation; providing an effective
13 date.

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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Section 229.8345, Florida Statutes, is
18 amended to read:

19 229.8345 Habitual truants; identification.--

20 (1) The Department of Education shall analyze the
21 current methods of collecting data on student attendance and
22 shall develop improved methods of identifying children who are
23 habitually truant. The department shall provide technical
24 assistance to school districts in order to allow each district
25 to accurately identify students whose chronic absence from
26 school may not otherwise be readily apparent to school
27 personnel.

28 (2) Beginning with school year 2001-2002, a student
29 who is truant a total of 18 times in any program shall be
30 identified as a habitual truant.

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1 Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of
2 section 236.081, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, are
3 amended to read:

4 236.081 Funds for operation of schools.--If the annual
5 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
6 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
7 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
8 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
9 follows:

10 (1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR
11 OPERATION.--The following procedure shall be followed in
12 determining the annual allocation to each district for
13 operation:

14 (a) Determination of full-time equivalent
15 membership.--During each of several school weeks, including
16 scheduled intersessions of a year-round school program during
17 the fiscal year, a program membership survey of each school
18 shall be made by each district by aggregating the full-time
19 equivalent student membership of each program by school and by
20 district. The department shall establish the number and
21 interval of membership calculations, except that for basic and
22 special programs such calculations shall not exceed nine for
23 any fiscal year. The district's full-time equivalent
24 membership shall be computed and currently maintained in
25 accordance with regulations of the commissioner. Beginning
26 with school year 1999-2000, each school district shall make a
27 program membership survey that documents the average daily
28 attendance of the student membership in each program by school
29 and by district. The average daily attendance must be computed
30 by dividing the total daily attendance of the student

1 membership in each program by the number of days in the
2 program.
3 (b) Determination of base student allocation.--The
4 base student allocation for the Florida Education Finance
5 Program for kindergarten through grade 12 shall be determined
6 annually by the Legislature and shall be that amount
7 prescribed in the current year's General Appropriations Act.
8 Beginning with school year 2001-2002, the average daily
9 attendance as computed under paragraph (a) must be used as the
10 sole basis for determining the base student allocation.

11 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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14 SENATE SUMMARY

15 Defines a habitual truant. Revises the procedures that
16 must be followed in determining the annual allocation to
17 each school district of funds for the operation of
18 schools. Beginning with school year 1999-2000, requires
19 the average daily attendance of the student membership in
20 each program to be calculated by school and by district.
21 Beginning with school year 2001-2002, requires average
22 daily attendance to be used as the sole basis for
23 determining the base student allocation.
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