By Senator Lynn

7-155-05

A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to tours by youth of state and 3 county correctional facilities; amending s. 4 945.75, F.S.; requiring that the Department of 5 Corrections and counties allow certain youth to 6 tour state and county correctional facilities 7 under specified conditions; amending s. 8 1003.26, F.S.; authorizing a district school 9 superintendent or a child study team to refer a 10 child to a youth awareness tour of state and county correctional facilities; providing an 11 12 effective date. 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 14 15 Section 1. Section 945.75, Florida Statutes, is 16 17 amended to read: 945.75 Tours of state correctional facilities for 18 juveniles. -- The Department of Corrections shall develop a 19 program under which a judge may order that juveniles who have 20 21 committed delinquent acts shall be allowed to tour state 22 correctional facilities by a court order or after a referral 23 by a district school superintendent or a child study team subject to under the terms and conditions established by the 2.4 department. Each county shall develop a comparable program to 25 allow juveniles to tour county correctional facilities by 26 jails pursuant to a court order or after a referral by a 27 2.8 district school superintendent or child study team. Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 29 1003.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 30 31

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1003.26 Enforcement of school attendance.--The Legislature finds that poor academic performance is associated with nonattendance and that schools must take an active role in enforcing attendance as a means of improving the performance of many students. It is the policy of the state that each district school superintendent be responsible for enforcing school attendance of all students subject to the compulsory school age in the school district. The responsibility includes recommending to the district school board policies and procedures to ensure that schools respond in a timely manner to every unexcused absence, or absence for which the reason is unknown, of students enrolled in the schools. District school board policies must require each parent of a student to justify each absence of the student, and that justification will be evaluated based on adopted district school board policies that define excused and unexcused absences. The policies must provide that schools track excused and unexcused absences and contact the home in the case of an unexcused absence from school, or an absence from school for which the reason is unknown, to prevent the development of patterns of nonattendance. The Legislature finds that early intervention in school attendance matters is the most effective way of producing good attendance habits that will lead to improved student learning and achievement. Each public school shall implement the following steps to enforce regular school attendance:

- (1) CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE. --
- (c) If an initial meeting does not resolve the problem, the child study team shall implement interventions that best address the problem. The interventions may include, but need not be limited to:

1	1. Freque	nt communication between the teacher and the
2	family;	
3	2. Change	s in the learning environment;
4	3. Mentor	ing;
5	4. Studen	t counseling;
6	5. Tutori	ng, including peer tutoring;
7	6. Placem	ent into different classes;
8	7. Evalua	tion for alternative education programs;
9	8. Attend	ance contracts;
10	9. Referr	al to other agencies for family services; or
11	10. Refer	ral to participate in a youth awareness tour
12	of a correctional facility under s. 945.75; or	
13	11.10. Other interventions, including, but not limited	
14	to, a truancy petition <u>under</u> pursuant to s. 984.151.	
15	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.	
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18	SENATE SUMMARY	
19	allow certain youth to tour state and county correctional facilities under specified conditions. Authorizes a district school superintendent or a child study team to refer a child to a youth awareness tour of state and county correctional facilities.	
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