

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to juvenile tours of correctional  
 3           facilities; amending s. 945.75, F.S.; providing for  
 4           juveniles to tour state or county correctional facilities  
 5           upon court order or referral by a school district or child  
 6           study team; amending s. 1003.26, F.S.; providing for  
 7           referrals of students with attendance problems to  
 8           voluntarily tour state or county correctional facilities;  
 9           providing an effective date.

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

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13           Section 1. Section 945.75, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 14           read:

15           945.75 Tours of state correctional facilities for  
 16           juveniles.--The Department of Corrections shall develop a  
 17           program under which ~~a judge may order that~~ juveniles who have  
 18           committed delinquent acts shall be allowed to tour state  
 19           correctional facilities pursuant to a court order or referral by  
 20           a district school superintendent or child study team, subject to  
 21           ~~under~~ the terms and conditions established by the department.

22           Each county shall develop a comparable program to allow  
 23           juveniles to tour county jails pursuant to a court order or  
 24           referral by a district school superintendent or child study  
 25           team.

26           Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
 27           1003.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

HB 0417

2005

28           1003.26 Enforcement of school attendance.--The Legislature  
29 finds that poor academic performance is associated with  
30 nonattendance and that schools must take an active role in  
31 enforcing attendance as a means of improving the performance of  
32 many students. It is the policy of the state that each district  
33 school superintendent be responsible for enforcing school  
34 attendance of all students subject to the compulsory school age  
35 in the school district. The responsibility includes recommending  
36 to the district school board policies and procedures to ensure  
37 that schools respond in a timely manner to every unexcused  
38 absence, or absence for which the reason is unknown, of students  
39 enrolled in the schools. District school board policies must  
40 require each parent of a student to justify each absence of the  
41 student, and that justification will be evaluated based on  
42 adopted district school board policies that define excused and  
43 unexcused absences. The policies must provide that schools track  
44 excused and unexcused absences and contact the home in the case  
45 of an unexcused absence from school, or an absence from school  
46 for which the reason is unknown, to prevent the development of  
47 patterns of nonattendance. The Legislature finds that early  
48 intervention in school attendance matters is the most effective  
49 way of producing good attendance habits that will lead to  
50 improved student learning and achievement. Each public school  
51 shall implement the following steps to enforce regular school  
52 attendance:

53           (1) CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE.--

54           (c) If an initial meeting does not resolve the problem,  
55 the child study team shall implement interventions that best

HB 0417

2005

56 address the problem. The interventions may include, but need not  
57 be limited to:

58 1. Frequent communication between the teacher and the  
59 family;

60 2. Changes in the learning environment;

61 3. Mentoring;

62 4. Student counseling;

63 5. Tutoring, including peer tutoring;

64 6. Placement into different classes;

65 7. Evaluation for alternative education programs;

66 8. Attendance contracts;

67 9. Referral to other agencies for family services; ~~or~~

68 10. Referral to voluntarily participate in a youth  
69 awareness tour of a state or county correctional facility  
70 pursuant to s. 945.75; or

71 ~~11.10.~~ Other interventions, including, but not limited to,  
72 a truancy petition under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 984.151.

73 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.