



S.F. No. 942 – Requiring school attendance reporting to local welfare agency for educational neglect (as proposed to be amended by the A-2 amendment)

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Date: February 19, 2025

Section 1 (amends Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, subdivision 19) amends the definition of “habitual truant” within the juvenile safety and placement chapter to mean a child 12 years of age or older and under 17 years and removes the reference to elementary school. Expands the definition for the purposes of educational neglect to include children under the age of 12.

Section 2 (adds Minn. Stat. § 260E.291) requires the reporting of school attendance concerns.

Subdivision 1 provides when reports are required.

Paragraph (a) requires mandated reporters to immediately report to the local welfare agency, the Tribal social services agency, or designated partner if a child required to be enrolled in school has at least seven unexcused absences in the current school year and is at risk of educational neglect or truancy.

Paragraph (b) allows any person to voluntarily report if a child required to be enrolled in school has at least seven unexcused absences in the current school year and is at risk of educational neglect or truancy.

Paragraph (c) requires an oral report to be made immediately by telephone or otherwise, and if made by a mandated reporter, to be followed up with a report in writing within 72 hours. Provides what the report must contain and allows a voluntary reporter to refuse to provide their name and address if the report is otherwise sufficient.

Subdivision 2 requires a local welfare agency, the Tribal social services agency, or designated partner to provide a child welfare response for a report that alleges a child enrolled in school has seven or more unexcused absences. Requires the agency to offer services to the child and the child’s family to address school attendance concerns and requires the services to be culturally and linguistically appropriate. Requires a report of

educational neglect to be made if the family has not engaged in the services and the child's unexcused absences continue.

Section 3 (APPROPRIATION) contains a blank appropriation in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for grants to fund child welfare response efforts under section 260E.291.



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