



2015 SENATE BILL 122

April 15, 2015 – Introduced by Senators HARRIS DODD, FARROW, LASSA, NASS, OLSEN, VUKMIR, WANGGAARD, L. TAYLOR, LEMAHIEU and DARLING, cosponsored by Representatives GENRICH, KITCHENS, KOLSTE, YOUNG, KULP, TITTL, SUBECK, POPE, QUINN, STEFFEN, BERCEAU, CONSIDINE, GOYKE, KAHL, E. BROOKS, BRANDTJEN and BALLWEG. Referred to Committee on Education Reform and Government Operations.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 118.16 (2) (c) and 118.16 (2) (cg) (intro.) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** method for notifying parent or guardian of habitually truant pupil.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the school attendance officer of a school district (attendance officer) must notify the parent or guardian of a pupil who has been absent from school without an excuse for two full school days of the child's truancy. The attendance officer may provide that notice by personal contact or through a telephone call, or, if the attendance officer is unable to make contact with the parent or guardian, by mail. Also under current law, the attendance officer must notify the parent or guardian of a pupil who is a habitual truant of the pupil's habitual truancy by certified or registered mail. Current law defines a habitual truant as a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of five or more school days during a school semester.

This bill adds notice by first class mail to the methods of notifying the parent or guardian of a habitual truant. The bill also permits the attendance officer to simultaneously notify the parent or guardian by an electronic communication.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 118.16 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1 118.16 (2) (c) Except as provided under pars. (cg) and (cr), shall notify the
2 parent or guardian of a child who has been truant of the child's truancy and direct
3 the parent or guardian to return the child to school no later than the next day on
4 which school is in session or to provide an excuse under s. 118.15. The notice under
5 this paragraph shall be given before the end of the 2nd school day after receiving a
6 report of an unexcused absence. The notice may be made by personal contact, 1st
7 class mail, or telephone call of which a written record is kept, except that notice by
8 personal contact or telephone call shall be attempted before notice by 1st class mail
9 may be given.

10 **SECTION 2.** 118.16 (2) (cg) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 118.16 (2) (cg) (intro.) Shall notify the parent or guardian of a child who is a
12 habitual truant, by registered or certified mail or by 1st class mail, when the child
13 initially becomes a habitual truant. The school attendance officer may
14 simultaneously notify the parent or guardian of the habitually truant child by an
15 electronic communication. The notice shall include all of the following:

16 (END)