

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB568

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 05, 2021

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB568 reduces the risk of a juvenile coming into contact with the juvenile justice system unnecessarily. It removes truancy as a juvenile status offense under court jurisdiction. The court may continue to address excessive absenteeism from school as part of disposition hearings.

The bill further establishes that the goals of juvenile pretrial diversion programs include providing juveniles who have excessive absenteeism from home or school with services to address the needs of the juvenile and his or her family. A juvenile pretrial diversion program shall be offered to the juvenile when practicable following a referral from a school, parent, guardian or custodian in regard to excessive absenteeism. When the county attorney receives a referral from a school that a juvenile is excessively absent, the county attorney shall work with the school to refer the juvenile and his or her family to community-based resources available to address the juvenile's behaviors, provide crisis intervention, and maintain the juvenile safely in the home.

LB568 also provides that the State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out statutory provisions related to excessive absenteeism.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Patty Pansing Brooks