

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1104 Session of  
2005

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CREIGHTON, GEIST,  
HARHART, HARRIS, PICKETT, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, THOMAS,  
WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 24, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 24, 2005

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," further providing for the excusal of  
6 students for nonattendance during temporary periods.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1329(a) of the act of March 10, 1949  
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
11 amended June 22, 2001 (P.L.530, No.35), is amended to read:

12 Section 1329. Excuses from Attending School.--(a) The board  
13 of school directors of any school district may, upon  
14 certification by any licensed practitioner of the healing arts  
15 or upon any other satisfactory evidence being furnished to it,  
16 showing that any child or children are prevented from attending  
17 school, or from application to study, on account of any mental,  
18 physical, or other urgent reasons, excuse such child or children  
19 from attending school as required by the provisions of this act,

1 but the term "urgent reasons" shall be strictly construed and  
2 shall not permit [of] irregular attendance. In every such case,  
3 such action by the board of school directors shall not be final  
4 until the approval of the Department of Public Instruction has  
5 been obtained. Every principal or teacher in any public,  
6 private, or other school may, for reasons enumerated above,  
7 excuse any child for non-attendance during temporary periods.  
8 Any person picking up a child of compulsory school age having  
9 been excused during school hours for a temporary period shall  
10 show photo identification to the school's office staff prior to  
11 signing out the child. If someone other than a parent or  
12 guardian of record is signing out the child, that person must  
13 also have been authorized or documented in writing by the parent  
14 or guardian as someone having permission to sign out the child.  
15 A person who is not authorized or documented as having  
16 permission shall not be allowed to sign out the child from  
17 school. Upon returning the child to school, the parent, guardian  
18 or other authorized person must report with the child to the  
19 school's office before the child may return to class. The form  
20 of authorization or documentation required under this section  
21 shall be determined by the board of school directors of each  
22 school district.

23 \* \* \*

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.