

1 A BILL

2 _____
3 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
4 _____

5 To amend, on a temporary basis, Article II of An Act To provide for compulsory school
6 attendance, for the taking of a school census in the District of Columbia, and for other
7 purposes to direct the Mayor to establish a truancy pilot for the purpose of referring
8 students with unexcused absences to the Department of Human Services and
9 documenting attendance and academic outcomes of students receiving interventions from
10 the Department of Human Services.

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
13 act may be cited as the “Pilot Truancy Reduction Temporary Amendment Act of 2024.”

14 Sec. 2. Section 7 of Article II of An Act To provide for compulsory school attendance, for
15 the taking of a school census in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, effective
16 September 19, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-17; D.C. Official Code § 38-208), is amended by adding a
17 new subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

18 “(c-1) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (c) of this section:

19 “(1)(A) By August 12, 2024, the Mayor shall identify 6 secondary educational
20 institutions and 3 primary educational institutions in the District that had a truancy rate greater
21 than 50% in the 2023-2024 school year to participate in a truancy pilot with the Department of
22 Human Services during School Year 2024-2025.

23 “(B) The Mayor shall notify the identified educational institutions of their
24 participation in the truancy pilot at least 10 business days before the first day of instruction in

25 School Year 2024-2025. The notice shall include appropriate agency contacts, timelines, and
26 procedures for complying with paragraph (2) of this subsection.

27 “(2) Three of the secondary educational institutions identified pursuant to
28 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall refer each student who is 14 years of age through 17 years
29 of age to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 school days after the accrual of 10
30 unexcused full school day absences within a school year.

31 “(3) Three of the secondary educational institutions identified pursuant to
32 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall refer each student who is 14 years of age through 17 years
33 of age to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 school days after the accrual of 15
34 unexcused full school day absences within a school year.

35 “(4) The three primary educational institutions identified pursuant to paragraph
36 (1) of this subsection shall refer each student who is 5 years of age through 13 years of age to the
37 Department of Human Services no later than 2 school days after the accrual of 10 unexcused full
38 school day absences within a school year.

39 “(5) By March 31, 2025, the Department of Human Services shall publish a
40 preliminary report that:

41 “(A) Describes the interventions and services provided through the
42 truancy pilot;

43 “(B) Provides the ten most common reasons, such as housing instability,
44 transportation issues, or medical emergencies, for which minor students were referred to services
45 or programs at the Department of Human Services;

46 “(C) Presents aggregate data on the ten most common services or
47 programs utilized by minor students;

48 “(D) Provides a pre-post analysis as follows:

49 “(i) Comparing the attendance outcomes, academic performance,
50 and delinquency status of students referred to the Department of Human Services to his or her
51 attendance outcomes, academic performance, and delinquency status during the same time
52 period in the prior school year;

53 “(ii) Comparing the attendance outcomes, academic performance,
54 and delinquency status of students referred to the Department of Human Services before and
55 after the Department of Human Services referral during School Year 2024-2025;

56 “(iii) Comparing the attendance outcomes and academic
57 performance of schools participating in the pilot with primary and secondary schools that did not
58 participate in this truancy pilot but are socio-demographically similar, and also with similar
59 school year 2023-2024 truancy rates, to participating schools during the applicable time period
60 for School Year 2024-2025; and

61 “(E) Categorizes and explains the root causes of truancy, to the extent
62 possible, for the students for whom they received referrals.

63 “(F) For purposes of D.C. Official Code § 38-208(c-1)(5)(D)(i) and (ii),
64 the term “delinquency status” means whether a minor student was arrested by a law enforcement
65 official during the time period analyzed in the report.

66 (5) By August 15, 2025, the Department of Human Services shall publish a final
67 public report that :

68 “(A) Describes the interventions and services provided through the truancy pilot;

69 “(B) Provides the ten most common reasons, such as housing instability,
70 transportation issues, or medical emergencies, for which minor students were referred to services
71 or programs at the Department of Human Services;

72 “(C) Presents aggregate data on the ten most common services or programs utilized by
73 minor students;

74 “(D) Provides a pre-post analysis as follows:

75 “(i) Comparing the attendance outcomes, academic performance,
76 and delinquency status of students referred to the Department of Human Services to his or her
77 attendance outcomes, academic performance, and delinquency status during the same time
78 period in the prior school year;

79 “(ii) Comparing the attendance outcomes, academic performance,
80 and delinquency status of students referred to the Department of Human Services before and
81 after the Department of Human Services referral during School Year 2024-2025;

82 “(iii) Comparing the attendance outcomes and academic
83 performance of schools participating in the pilot with primary and secondary schools that did not
84 participate in this truancy pilot but are socio-demographically similar, and also with similar
85 school year 2023-2024 truancy rates, to participating schools during the applicable time period
86 for School Year 2024-2025; and

87 “(E) Categorizes and explains the root causes of truancy, to the extent
88 possible, for the students for whom they received referrals.

89 “(F) For purposes of D.C. Official Code § 38-208(c-1)(5)(D)(i) and (ii),
90 the term “delinquency status” means whether a minor student was arrested by a law enforcement
91 official during the time period analyzed in the report.

92 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

93 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
94 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
95 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

96 Sec. 4. Applicability

97 (a) This act shall apply as of August 12, 2024.

98 Sec. 5. Effective date.

99 (a) This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor,
100 action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided
101 in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973
102 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia
103 Register.

104 (b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.