

14-0002-546

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2013 report from the Office of Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, an estimated 1 million elementary school students are truant and 250,000 elementary school students miss attending school more than 10 percent of the school year, at a cost of \$1.4 billion in lost funds to California school districts; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 report on elementary school truancy, "In School + On Track," found that first-grade students with nine or more total absences are twice as likely to dropout of high school, and 82 percent of all prisoners are high school dropouts; and

WHEREAS, joined by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, State Senator Bill Monning and Assemblymembers Raul Bocanegra, Rob Bonta, Joan Buchanan, Isadore Hall, and Chris Holden, Attorney General Harris announced her sponsorship of five bills that will help schools, parents and government effectively intervene when children are chronically absent, and improve local school districts' and counties' ability to track attendance patterns; and

WHEREAS, the legislation package includes the following:

- Senate Bill 1107 – Mandated Annual Report Legislation
Author: Senator Bill Monning
Mandates that the Attorney General issue an annual report on elementary school truancy and chronic absenteeism similar to the 2013's "In School + On Track" report. This will help track truancy and chronic absence rates and highlight effective programs to improve attendance across the state.
- Assembly Bill 1866 – Statewide Attendance Data System
Author: Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra
Enhance the State Department of Education's student record system to include fields on truancy and absenteeism. California is one of only four states in the country that does not collect student attendance data. This will allow local school districts to monitor and analyze attendance patterns.
- Assembly Bill 1672 – Enhanced School Attendance Review Board (SARB) Reports
Author: Assemblymember Chris Holden
Requires the local School Attendance Review Boards (SARB) to report annually on referral rates to county offices of education and expand these reports to include information on student enrollment, absence and truancy rates, district attorney referral and SARB intervention outcomes. This bill ensures schools, districts and counties can evaluate the success of truancy intervention efforts.

APR 11 2014

- Assembly Bill 1643 – Mandatory SARBs
Author: Assemblymember Joan Buchanan
Require that every county create a SARB. County SARBs are a local tool to provide training, guidance and oversight to local SARBs within a county to ensure consistency and achievement of the SARB's core mission: improve attendance.
- Assembly Bill 2141 – District Attorney Referral Outcome Reports
Authors: Assemblymember Isadore Hall, Assemblymember Rob Bonta
Require that when a parent or student is referred to the district attorney's office or any other agency engaged in prosecution or charges are considered to enforce state school attendance laws, the prosecuting agency must provide a report on the outcome of the referral.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1107 (Monning), Assembly Bill 1866 (Bocanegra), Assembly Bill 1672 (Holden), Assembly Bill 1643 (Buchanan), and Assembly Bill 2141 (Hall/Bonta), which are intended to assist schools, parents and government to effectively intervene when children are chronically absent, and to improve local school districts' and counties' ability to track attendance patterns.

PRESENTED BY: 

HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL