

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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April 24, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller *Gerry F. Miller* for  
Chief Legislative Analyst

Assignment No. 14-04-0277  
Council File No. 14-0002-S46

SUBJECT: Resolution (Wesson, Jr. - Martinez) to Support SB 1107, AB 1866, AB 1672, AB 1643, and AB 2141 Student Truancy

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution to include in the City's 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.

## SUMMARY

On April 11, 2014, the Resolution (Wesson, Jr.- Martinez) was introduced stating the following:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- The legislative package includes the following:

### Senate Bill 1107 (Monning) – Mandated Annual Report Legislation.

This legislation mandates that the Attorney General issue an annual report on elementary school truancy and chronic absenteeism similar to the "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 (Bocanegra) – Statewide Attendance Data System. This legislation would enhance the State Department of Education's student record system to include fields on truancy and absenteeism. This will allow local school districts to monitor and analyze attendance patterns.

Assembly Bill 1672 (Holden) – Enhanced School Attendance Review Board (SARB) Reports. This legislation would require 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 referrals and SARB intervention outcomes. This bill ensures schools, districts and counties can evaluate the success of truancy intervention efforts.

Assembly Bill 1643 (Buchanan) – Mandatory SARBs. This legislation would 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 (Hall/Bonta) – District Attorney Referral Outcome Reports. This legislation would 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.

## BACKGROUND

California's education law requires all students between the ages of six and 18 to attend school full-time and requires their parents and guardians to ensure that their children attend school. In 2011-12, the California Department of Education (CDE) reported a truancy rate of 28.5 percent, down from 29.76 percent in 2010-11, with 1.8 million students out of a total enrollment of 6.2 million considered truants.

A student who is absent from school without a valid excuse three full days in one school year or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof, is considered truant. The parents or the guardians have the right to meet with the appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy.

The legislation will:

- Assist schools and counties as they work with parents to address the reason behind truancy and chronic absence.
- Provide local school districts and counties tools to comply with attendance tracking requirements in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), state truancy mandates and state and federal reporting requirements.
- Modernize state and local systems to track and prevent truancy and chronic absence.
- Ensure that schools, districts, counties and the state can evaluate the success of interventions to combat truancy and chronic absence.

BILL STATUS

SB 1107

04/03/14 Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Committee on Public Safety.  
04/02/14 Pass as amended and re-referred to Committee on Public Safety.  
02/27/14 Referred to Committees on Education and Public Safety.  
02/19/14 Introduced. Read first time.

AB 1866

03/27/14 Pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations.  
02/27/14 Referred to Committee of Education.  
02/19/14 Introduced. Read first time.

AB 1672

04/08/14 Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.  
04/07/14 Read second time and amended.  
04/03/14 Pass as amended and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations.  
02/20/14 Referred to Committee on Education.  
02/12/14 Introduced. Read first time.

AB 1643

04/02/14 Pass as amended and re-referred to Committee on Education.  
02/20/14 Referred to Committee on Education.  
02/11/14 Introduced. Read first time.

AB 2141

04/07/14 Read second time and amended.  
04/03/14 Pass as amended and re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.  
03/06/14 Referred to Committee on Education.  
02/20/14 Introduced. Read first time.



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Darrell Powell  
Analyst

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, 10<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_