

MR. PERRIN, from the Committee on Schools, submitted the following report:

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Committee on Schools, to whom was referred house file No. 403, a bill for an act to compel children to attend public schools in certain cases, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and have instructed me to report the same back to the house with the recommendation that it do pass.

PERRIN, *Chairman.*

Ordered passed on file.

HOUSE FILE NO. 403.]

[BY BLAIR.

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO COMPEL CHILDREN TO ATTEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN CERTAIN
CASES.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That all parents,
2 guardians, or other persons having the control or care of any child between eight and four-
3 teen years of age, residing in any school district in which a public school is annually taught
4 for the period of twelve weeks or more, within two miles by the nearest traveled road from
5 his residence, shall cause such child to attend some public or private day school for at least
6 twelve weeks in each year, as reported by the district secretaries to the county superintendent,
7 six weeks at least of which shall be consecutive, or to be instructed at home at least twelve
8 weeks in each year in the branches of education required to be taught in the public schools
9 of this state, unless such child is excused by the board of directors for the district in which
10 said parents or guardians may reside, upon its being shown to their satisfaction that the
11 physical or mental condition of said child is such as to render such attendance or instruction
12 inexpedient or impracticable.

SEC. 2. The secretary of the board of directors shall cause five notices of this law to be
2 posted in the most public places in each independent district, and at least one in each sub-
3 district of a district township under their supervision; and it shall be the duty of the boards
4 of supervisors to have the same published in the official papers of their respective counties
5 for three weeks during the month of August: *provided,* that such notice shall not be deemed
6 necessary after two years from the passage of this act.

SEC. 3. In case any parent, guardian, or other person having the control of children
 2 between the ages of eight and fourteen years, shall fail to comply with the provisions of this
 3 act during any year, said parents, guardians, or other person, shall forfeit to the use of the
 4 teachers' fund of their district a sum not exceeding twenty dollars (\$20) for each child coming
 5 within the compass of this act, respecting whom such failure was made. Said forfeiture shall
 6 be recovered by the board of directors for the district wherein such offense was committed,
 7 in an action for debt in the name of the district, and all penalties, when collected, shall be
 8 paid to the district treasurer, and added to the teachers' fund thereof.

SEC. 4. In every case arising under this act where the parents, guardians, or other person
 2 having the control of any child coming within the compass of this act, shall be unable to
 3 provide said child with suitable text books, and other materials necessary to enable it to re-
 4 ceive instruction at the public schools, they shall so state in writing to the secretary or the
 5 subdirector, who shall report the same to the secretary. The secretary shall consult with
 6 the president of the board, and if these two officers deem it necessary, they shall furnish such
 7 books and other materials as a loan to said child at the expense of the district: said books
 8 and materials to be held under the care of the school board as the property of the district.

SEC. 5. In all cases where parents, guardians, or other persons having the care of children,
 2 make a written statement to the township trustees that they are unable to provide suitable
 3 clothing for the children under their care to conform with the provisions of this act, such
 4 trustees shall investigate each case, and if they find the need to be existing, they shall pro-
 5 vide the needed clothing at the expense of the county.

SEC. 6. In case any person having the care of any child, between the ages of eight and
 2 fourteen years, is unable to induce or cause said child to attend school for the said twelve
 3 weeks of each year, and shall so state in writing to the president of the board of directors, the
 4 said child shall, from and after the delivery of said statement in writing, be deemed and
 5 dealt with as an habitual truant, and said person shall be relieved from all penalties incurred
 6 for said year as to such child under sections one and three of this act.

SEC. 7. The board of directors of independent, town and city districts may require the
 2 aid of the police and other officers of the law to secure the proper attendance of such truants
 3 or incorrigible children, for at least twelve weeks each year, and at any time during the ses-
 4 sion of the school, whenever such children are found on the streets, or in improper place,
 5 without employment during school hours.

SEC. 8. In the rural districts the board of directors may require the aid of the constables
 2 in order to secure the attendance of truants, as defined in section 6.