

SENATE FILE No. 22.—SCHOOLS.]

[By CARSON.]

## A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO REQUIRE CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF SEVEN AND FIFTEEN YEARS TO ATTEND SCHOOL AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF TRUANT OFFICERS TO COMPEL ATTENDANCE.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa :*

SECTION 1. All children between the ages of seven and fifteen years shall attend school  
2 not less than twelve consecutive weeks, and every parent, guardian or other person having  
3 custody of any child or children of the age specified in this act, shall cause such child or  
4 children to attend either a public or private for the period provided in this act.

SEC. 2. The Board of Directors, in each school district, shall, if practicable, provide a sep-  
2 arate school for truants and other children, who may be found incorrigible, and such Board  
3 of Directors shall provide indigent children with books, from the contingent fund, such  
4 books to remain the property of the district and in the custody of the teacher in charge of  
5 such school.

SEC. 3. Such Board of Directors may appoint a truant officer to compel the attendance of  
2 truants, and such officers shall have power to arrest any such truant without warrant and  
3 deliver him at the school to which he belongs, and such officer shall, upon request of the  
4 Board of Directors, visit parents or those having custody of children of the age in this act  
5 provided, and obtain from such persons the cause of unattendance of such child or children  
6 and report such fact to such Board of Directors ; *provided*, however, in the event any child  
7 of the age provided in this act, who may be of unsound mind or infirm health shall be ex-  
8 empt from the provisions of this act.

*See next page*

## A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO ENLARGE THE POWERS OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS IN RELATION  
TO COMPELLING THE ATTENDANCE OF PUPILS AT SCHOOL.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

SECTION 1. Every person having under his control a child between the ages of eight and  
2 fourteen years shall annually during such control cause such child to attend school at least  
3 twelve weeks, eight of which shall be consecutive, and for every neglect of such duty the  
4 party offending shall forfeit to the use of the school fund a sum not exceeding five dollars;  
5 but if the person so neglecting was not able by reason of poverty to send such child to  
6 school, or if the child has been otherwise furnished with the means of education for a like  
7 period of time, or has already acquired the ordinary branches of learning taught in public  
8 schools, or has been prevented from attending school by bad health or by reason of bad  
9 weather and distance from school, the penalty shall not be incurred.

SEC. 2. The board of directors of each independent district, and of each township dis-  
2 trict, shall appoint at their annual meeting in March one or more of their number, or other  
3 suitable person or persons, to be known as visiting officers, whose duty it shall be, under  
4 the direction of the board of directors, to notify by personal visitation where necessary, all  
5 families in the district of the opening of any term of school at least one week in advance of  
6 such opening, to do such general and special work by personal visitation, persuasion and  
7 other suitable means as will in the judgment of the directors add to the efficiency and use-  
8 fulness of the public schools; and such officers shall have power to arrest any truant with-  
10 out warrant and deliver him to the school to which he belongs.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the visiting officers to keep an accurate record of the  
2 names and number of families visited, also the names and number of children, over eight  
3 and under fourteen years of age, whose education is habitually neglected, and report them  
4 with such other facts as the board may direct, to the secretary of the district, who shall lay  
5 the same before the board of directors, and make a summary of the same in his report to the  
6 county superintendent.

SEC. 4. The board of directors in each independent school district containing one thou-  
2 sand pupils, or more, may provide a separate school for truants and other children, who  
3 may be found incorrigible.

SEC. 5. The board of directors shall direct the secretary to supply the children, whose  
2 parents or guardian are unable to do so, with the necessary books, taking the names of the  
3 children supplied, the title of the books and the price of the same.

SEC. 6. The board of directors shall make all needful rules and regulations for the pre-  
2 vention of truancy, and for the carrying out of the provisions of this act.