

Senate Engrossed

pupils; excused absences; mental health

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-fifth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2021

# SENATE BILL 1097

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-807, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-807, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 15-807. Absence from school; notification of parent or person  
5 having custody of pupil; immunity; excused absence

6 A. If a pupil in a kindergarten program or IN ANY OF grades one  
7 through eight is absent from school without excuse as provided in this  
8 article or without notice to the school in which the pupil is enrolled of  
9 authorization of the absence by the parent or other person who has custody  
10 of the pupil, the school in which the pupil is enrolled shall make a  
11 reasonable effort to promptly telephone and notify the parent or other  
12 person who has custody of the pupil of the pupil's absence from school:

13 1. Within two hours after the first class in which the pupil is  
14 absent for a pupil in A kindergarten PROGRAM or IN ANY OF grades one  
15 through six.

16 2. Within two hours after the first class in which the pupil is  
17 absent for a pupil in grade seven or eight if the first class in which the  
18 pupil is absent is the pupil's first class of the school day.

19 3. Within five hours after the first class in which the pupil is  
20 absent for a pupil in grade seven or eight if the first class in which the  
21 pupil is absent is after the pupil's first class of the school day.

22 B. On or before the enrollment of a pupil in a kindergarten program  
23 or IN ANY OF grades one through eight, the school district shall notify  
24 ~~parents~~ THE PARENT or other ~~persons~~ PERSON who ~~have~~ HAS custody of ~~a~~ THE  
25 pupil:

26 1. Of ~~their~~ THE PARENT'S OR OTHER PERSON'S responsibility to  
27 authorize any absence of the pupil from school and to notify the school in  
28 which the pupil is enrolled in advance or at the time of any absence. ~~and~~

29 2. That the school district requires ~~that~~ THE PARENT OR OTHER  
30 PERSON WHO HAS CUSTODY TO PROVIDE at least one telephone number, if  
31 available, ~~be given~~ for purposes of this section. The school district  
32 shall require that the telephone number, if available, be given at the  
33 time of enrollment of the pupil in school and that the school of  
34 enrollment be promptly notified of any change in the telephone number.

35 C. A school district, governing board members of a school district  
36 and employees or agents of a school district are not liable for failure to  
37 notify the parent or other person who has custody of a pupil of the  
38 pupil's absence from school as provided in this section.

39 D. IN IDENTIFYING EXCUSED ABSENCES PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-901,  
40 SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 1, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL IDENTIFY AN  
41 ABSENCE DUE TO THE MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OF A PUPIL AS AN EXCUSED  
42 ABSENCE. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR THE PURPOSES  
43 OF THIS SUBSECTION, INCLUDING DETERMINING WHAT CONSTITUTES AN ABSENCE DUE  
44 TO THE MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OF A PUPIL.