WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1963

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 425

Mr. Christian, of McAlester, in Mr. Blair's place

PASSED Mar. 4 - 1963

In Effect From Passage

Filed in Office of the Secretary of State of West Virginia 3-12-63

JOE F. BURDETT
SECRETARY OF STATE
AN ACT to amend and reenact section four, article eight, chapter eighteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to the duties of school attendance directors.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section four, article eight, chapter eighteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Article 8. Compulsory School Attendance.

Section 4. Duties of Attendance Director; Assistant Directors of Attendance.—The county attendance director and his assistants shall diligently promote regular school attendance. They shall ascertain reasons for in-
excusable absences from school of pupils of compulsory school age as defined under this article, and shall take such steps as are, in their discretion, best calculated to correct attitudes of parents and pupils which result in absences from school even though not clearly in violation of law.

If it is found that absence from school is in violation of law, the attendance director or assistant, in the case of first offense that school year, shall serve written notice to the parent, guardian, or custodian of such child that the attendance of such child at school is required; and if the parent, guardian, or custodian does not comply with the provisions of this article, then the attendance director or assistant shall make complaint against such parent, guardian or custodian before a justice of the peace of the county: Provided, That for a subsequent offense in any school year no such notice shall be required. The summons to appear before the justice of the peace may be served upon the parent, guardian, or custodian by the county attendance director or assistant or by any officer qualified to serve such summons.
When any doubt exists as to the age of a child absent from school, the attendance director shall have authority to require a properly attested birth certificate or an affidavit from the parent, guardian or custodian of such child, stating age of such child. The county attendance director or assistant, shall in the performance of his duties, have authority to take without warrant any child absent from school in violation of the provisions of this article and to place such child in the school in which such child is or should be enrolled.

The county attendance director shall devote full time to his duties as a school official and shall be responsible under direction of the county superintendent for the efficient administration of school attendance in his county. In addition to those duties directly relating to the administration of attendance, the county attendance director and assistant directors shall also perform the following duties:

(a) Assist in directing the taking of the school census to see that it is taken at the time and in the manner provided by law;
(b) Advise with principals and teachers on the comparison of school census and enrollment for the detection of possible non-enrollees;

(c) Cooperate with existing state and federal agencies charged with enforcement of child labor laws;

(d) Prepare a report for submission by the county superintendent to the state superintendent of schools on school attendance, at such times and in such detail as may be required; also, file with the county superintendent and county board of education at the close of each month a report showing activities of the school attendance office and the status of attendance in the county at the time;

(e) Promote attendance in the county by the compilation of data for schools and by furnishing suggestions and recommendations for publication through school bulletins and the press, or for such purposes as the county superintendent may direct;

(f) Participate in school functions such as parent-teacher associations, civic meetings, club meetings, and teachers' conferences;

(g) Assist in such other ways as the county superintendent may direct for improving school attendance.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House.

Takes effect from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within approved this the 11th day of March, 1963.

Governor