

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 9, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2195

Introduced by Assembly Member Achadjian

February 20, 2014

An act to amend ~~Section~~ *Sections 256, 257, and 258* of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to juveniles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2195, as amended, Achadjian. Juveniles: truancy.

Existing law provides that a juvenile hearing officer may hear and dispose of any case in which a minor is alleged to have committed any one of specified misdemeanors or infractions. In those cases, the juvenile court is known as the Informal Juvenile and Traffic Court. Existing law *also* provides that a minor may be adjudged to be a ward of the juvenile court on the basis of certain noncriminal conduct, including truancy, as specified.

This bill would authorize a juvenile hearing officer to hear cases in which a minor is alleged to come within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court on the basis of truancy, as specified. *The bill would authorize a hearing before a juvenile hearing officer, referee, or judge to be conducted upon a written notice to appear for truancy, with the consent of the minor. The bill would prohibit a judge, referee, or juvenile hearing officer from proceeding with a hearing of a minor on the basis of truancy unless the court has been presented with clear and convincing evidence that the minor's school has undertaken certain actions to address the minor's truancy and a complete record of previous attempts to address the minor's truancy. The bill would, among other things, authorize the judge, referee, or juvenile hearing officer to give the minor the*

opportunity to demonstrate good attendance before imposing orders, as specified, and would require the dismissal of the case upon demonstration of good attendance. The bill would also prohibit the court from imposing a fine or court fees in these cases.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 256 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
2 is amended to read:
3 256. Subject to the orders of the juvenile court, a juvenile
4 hearing officer may hear and dispose of any case in which a minor
5 under the age of 18 years as of the date of the alleged offense is
6 charged with (1) any violation of the Vehicle Code, except Section
7 23136, 23140, 23152, or 23153 of that code, not declared to be a
8 felony, (2) a violation of subdivision (m) of Section 602 of the
9 Penal Code, (3) a violation of the Fish and Game Code not declared
10 to be a felony, (4) a violation of any of the equipment provisions
11 of the Harbors and Navigation Code or the vessel registration
12 provisions of the Vehicle Code, (5) a violation of any provision
13 of state or local law relating to traffic offenses, loitering or curfew,
14 or evasion of fares on a public transportation system, as defined
15 by Section 99211 of the Public Utilities Code, (6) a violation of
16 Section 27176 of the Streets and Highways Code, (7) a violation
17 of Section 640 or 640a of the Penal Code, (8) a violation of the
18 rules and regulations established pursuant to Sections 5003 and
19 5008 of the Public Resources Code, (9) a violation of Section
20 33211.6 of the Public Resources Code, (10) a violation of Section
21 25658, 25658.5, 25661, or 25662 of the Business and Professions
22 Code, (11) a violation of subdivision (f) of Section 647 of the Penal
23 Code, (12) a misdemeanor violation of Section 594 of the Penal
24 Code, involving defacing property with paint or any other liquid,
25 (13) a violation of subdivision (b), (d), or (e) of Section 594.1 of
26 the Penal Code, (14) a violation of subdivision (b) of Section 11357
27 of the Health and Safety Code, (15) any infraction, (16) any
28 misdemeanor for which the minor is cited to appear by a probation
29 officer pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 660.5, or (17) a
30 violation of subdivision (b) of Section 601 that is due to having

1 four or more truanancies, as ~~defined~~ *described* in Section 48260 of
2 the Education Code, within one school year.

3 *SEC. 2. Section 257 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is*
4 *amended to read:*

5 257. (a) (1) Except in the case of infraction violations, with
6 the consent of the minor, a hearing before a juvenile hearing officer,
7 or a hearing before a referee or a judge of the juvenile court, ~~where~~
8 *when* the minor is charged with an offense as specified in this
9 section, may be conducted upon an exact legible copy of a written
10 notice given pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section
11 40500) of Chapter 2 of Division 17 or Section 41103 of the Vehicle
12 Code, or an exact legible copy of a written notice given pursuant
13 to Chapter 5C (commencing with Section 853.5) of Title 3 of Part
14 2 of the Penal Code when the offense charged is a violation listed
15 in Section 256, or an exact legible copy of a citation as set forth
16 in subdivision (e) of Section 660.5, *or an exact legible copy of the*
17 *notice given pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 601*, in lieu of
18 a petition as provided in Article 16 (commencing with Section
19 650).

20 (2) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of~~ law, in the case of
21 infraction violations, consent of the minor is not required prior to
22 conducting a hearing upon written notice to appear.

23 (b) Prior to the hearing, the judge, referee, or juvenile hearing
24 officer may request the probation officer to commence a
25 proceeding, as provided in Article 16 (commencing with Section
26 650), in lieu of a hearing in Informal Juvenile and Traffic Court.

27 *SEC. 3. Section 258 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is*
28 *amended to read:*

29 258. (a) Upon a hearing conducted in accordance with Section
30 257, and upon either an admission by the minor of the commission
31 of a violation charged, or a finding that the minor did in fact
32 commit the violation, the judge, referee, or juvenile hearing officer
33 may do any of the following:

34 (1) Reprimand the minor and take no further action.

35 (2) Direct that the probation officer undertake a program of
36 supervision of the minor for a period not to exceed six months, in
37 addition to or in place of the following orders.

38 (3) Order that the minor pay a fine up to the amount that an
39 adult would pay for the same violation, unless the violation is
40 otherwise specified within this section, in which case the fine shall

1 not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). This fine may be
2 levied in addition to or in place of the following orders and the
3 court may waive any or all of this fine, if the minor is unable to
4 pay. In determining the minor's ability to pay, the court may not
5 consider the ability of the minor's family to pay.

6 (4) Subject to the minor's right to a restitution hearing, order
7 that the minor pay restitution to the victim, in lieu of all or a portion
8 of the fine specified in paragraph (3). The total dollar amount of
9 the fine, restitution, and any program fees ordered pursuant to
10 paragraph (9) may not exceed the maximum amount which may
11 be ordered pursuant to paragraph (3). This paragraph may not be
12 construed to limit the right to recover damages, less any amount
13 actually paid in restitution, in a civil action.

14 (5) Order that the driving privileges of the minor be suspended
15 or restricted as provided in the Vehicle Code or, notwithstanding
16 Section 13203 of the Vehicle Code or any other provision of law,
17 when the Vehicle Code does not provide for the suspension or
18 restriction of driving privileges, that, in addition to any other order,
19 the driving privileges of the minor be suspended or restricted for
20 a period of not to exceed 30 days.

21 (6) In the case of a traffic related offense, order the minor to
22 attend a licensed traffic school, or other court approved program
23 of traffic school instruction pursuant to Chapter 1.5 (commencing
24 with Section 11200) of Division 5 of the Vehicle Code, to be
25 completed by the juvenile within 60 days of the court order.

26 (7) Order that the minor produce satisfactory evidence that the
27 vehicle or its equipment has been made to conform with the
28 requirements of the Vehicle Code pursuant to Section 40150 of
29 the Vehicle Code if the violation involved an equipment violation.

30 (8) Order that the minor perform community service work in a
31 public entity or any private nonprofit entity, for not more than 50
32 hours over a period of 60 days, during times other than his or her
33 hours of school attendance or employment. Work performed
34 pursuant to this paragraph may not exceed 30 hours during any
35 30-day period. The timeframes established by this paragraph may
36 not be modified except in unusual cases where the interests of
37 justice would best be served. When the order to work is made by
38 a referee or a juvenile hearing officer, it shall be approved by a
39 judge of the juvenile court.

1 For the purposes of this paragraph, a judge, referee, or juvenile
2 hearing officer may not, without the consent of the minor, order
3 the minor to perform work with a private nonprofit entity that is
4 affiliated with any religion.

5 (9) In the case of a misdemeanor, order that the minor participate
6 in and complete a counseling or educational program, or, if the
7 offense involved a violation of a controlled substance law, a drug
8 treatment program, if those programs are available. Any fees for
9 participation shall be subject to the right to a hearing as the minor's
10 ability to pay and may not, together with any fine or restitution
11 order, exceed the maximum amount that may be ordered pursuant
12 to paragraph (3).

13 (10) Require that the minor attend a school program without
14 unexcused absence.

15 (11) If the offense is a misdemeanor committed between 10
16 p.m. and 6 a.m., require that the minor be at his or her legal
17 residence at hours to be specified by the juvenile hearing officer
18 between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., except for a medical or
19 other emergency, unless the minor is accompanied by his or her
20 parent, guardian, or other person in charge of the minor. The
21 maximum length of an order made pursuant to this paragraph shall
22 be six months from the effective date of the order.

23 (12) Make any or all of the following orders with respect to a
24 violation of the Fish and Game Code which is not charged as a
25 felony:

26 (A) That the fishing or hunting license involved be suspended
27 or restricted.

28 (B) That the minor work in a park or conservation area for a
29 total of not to exceed 20 hours over a period not to exceed 30 days,
30 during times other than his or her hours of school attendance or
31 employment.

32 (C) That the minor forfeit, pursuant to Section 12157 of the Fish
33 and Game Code, any device or apparatus designed to be, and
34 capable of being, used to take birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or
35 amphibia and which was used in committing the violation charged.
36 The judge, referee, or juvenile hearing officer shall, if the minor
37 committed an offense which is punishable under Section 12008
38 of the Fish and Game Code, order the device or apparatus forfeited
39 pursuant to Section 12157 of the Fish and Game Code.

1 (13) If the violation charged is of an ordinance of a city, county,
2 or local agency relating to loitering, curfew, or fare evasion on a
3 public transportation system, as defined by Section 99211 of the
4 Public Utilities Code, or is a violation of Section 640 or 640a of
5 the Penal Code, make the order that the minor shall perform
6 community service for a total time not to exceed 20 hours over a
7 period not to exceed 30 days, during times other than his or her
8 hours of school attendance or employment.

9 *(b) If the minor is before the court on the basis of truancy, as*
10 *described in subdivision (b) of Section 601, all of the following*
11 *procedures and limitations shall apply:*

12 *(1) The judge, referee, or juvenile hearing officer shall not*
13 *proceed with a hearing unless both of the following have been*
14 *provided to the court:*

15 *(A) Clear and convincing evidence that the minor's school has*
16 *undertaken the actions specified in subdivisions (a), (b), and (c)*
17 *of Section 48264.5 of the Education Code.*

18 *(B) A complete record of previous attempts to address the*
19 *minor's truancy.*

20 *(2) The court shall attempt to set the hearing outside of school*
21 *hours, so as to avoid causing the minor to miss additional school*
22 *time.*

23 *(3) Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 257,*
24 *the minor and his or her parents shall be advised of the minor's*
25 *right to refuse consent to a hearing conducted upon a written*
26 *notice to appear.*

27 *(4) The minor's parents shall be permitted to participate in the*
28 *hearing.*

29 *(5) Upon a finding that the minor violated subdivision (b) of*
30 *Section 601, the judge, referee, or juvenile hearing officer shall*
31 *direct his or her orders at addressing the causes of truancy and*
32 *shall make best efforts to seek the involvement of any other parties*
33 *who can help address the causes through the provision of any*
34 *required or necessary services, including, but not limited to, the*
35 *school or school district.*

36 *(6) The judge, referee, or juvenile hearing officer may give the*
37 *minor the opportunity to demonstrate good attendance before*
38 *imposing any of the orders specified in paragraph (7). Upon*
39 *demonstration of good attendance, the court shall dismiss the case.*

1 (7) *The judge, referee, or juvenile hearing officer may do either*
2 *of the following:*

3 (A) *The court may order the minor to perform community service*
4 *work, as described in Section 48264.5 of the Education Code,*
5 *which may be performed at the minor's school.*

6 (B) *The court may restrict driving privileges in the manner set*
7 *forth in paragraph (5) of subdivision (a). The minor may request*
8 *removal of the driving restrictions if he or she provides proof of*
9 *school attendance, high school graduation, GED completion, or*
10 *enrollment in adult education, a community college, or a trade*
11 *program. Any driving restriction shall be removed at the time the*
12 *minor attains 18 years of age.*

13 (8) *The judge, referee, or juvenile hearing officer shall not*
14 *impose a fine or court fees.*

15 ~~(b)~~

16 (c) (1) *The judge, referee, or juvenile hearing officer shall*
17 *retain jurisdiction of the case until all orders made under this*
18 *section have been fully complied with.*

19 (2) *If a minor is before the judge, referee, or juvenile hearing*
20 *officer on the basis of truancy, jurisdiction shall be terminated*
21 *upon the minor attaining 18 years of age.*