

A Resolution
Presented By Samantha Courage
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Purpose: To prohibit anyone under the age of 18 to drop-out of high school, unless the individuals reasoning is appropriate to that of which is listed in the outlined stipulations, laid out in Article 1 Section 59, Chapter 65 and it's accompanying subsections.

Whereas, The current dropout rate in South Carolina is an alarming 26%,

Whereas, In 2012-2013 the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) processed 16,754 new juvenile cases. Not only that, 75% of state prison inmates, and 59% of federal prison inmates are high school dropouts,

Whereas, The unemployment rate is 6.6% as of December 2014,

Whereas, SECTION 59-65-10 (A) The law currently states:
A parent or guardian shall require his child to attend regularly a public or private school or kindergarten of this State which has been approved by the State Board of Education, a member school of the South Carolina Independent Schools' Association, a member school of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, or some similar organization, or a parochial, denominational, or church-related school, or other programs which have been approved by the State Board of Education from the school year in which the child is five years of age before September first until the child attains his seventeenth birthday or graduates from high school. A parent or guardian whose child is not six years of age on or before the first day of September of a particular school year may elect for their child or ward not to attend kindergarten. For this purpose, the parent or guardian shall sign a written document making the election with the governing body of the school district in which the parent or guardian resides. The form of this written document must be prescribed by regulation of the Department of Education. Upon the written election being executed, that child is not required to attend kindergarten.

Therefore, Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session, assemble the following:

Section I: SECTION 59-65-10 (A) The law currently states:
A parent or guardian shall require his child to attend regularly a public or private school or kindergarten of this State which has been approved by the State Board of Education, a member school of the South Carolina Independent Schools' Association, a member school of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, or some similar organization, or a parochial, denominational, or church-related school, or other programs which have been approved by the State Board of Education from the school year in which the child is five years of age before

47 September first ~~until the child attains his seventeenth birthday~~ or graduates from
48 high school. A parent or guardian whose child is not six years of age on or before
49 the first day of September of a particular school year may elect for their child or
50 ward not to attend kindergarten. For this purpose, the parent or guardian shall sign
51 a written document making the election with the governing body of the school
52 district in which the parent or guardian resides. The form of this written document
53 must be prescribed by regulation of the Department of Education. Upon the
54 written election being executed, that child is not required to attend kindergarten.

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57 **Section II:** Amend SECTION 59-65-10 (A) to read as follows:
58 A parent or guardian shall require his child to attend regularly a public or private
59 school or kindergarten of this State which has been approved by the State Board
60 of Education, a member school of the South Carolina Independent Schools'
61 Association, a member school of the South Carolina Association of Christian
62 Schools, or some similar organization, or a parochial, denominational, or church-
63 related school, or other programs which have been approved by the State Board of
64 Education from the school year in which the child is five years of age before
65 September first *until the child attains their eighteenth birthday* or graduates from
66 high school. A parent or guardian whose child is not six years of age on or before
67 the first day of September of a particular school year may elect for their child or
68 ward not to attend kindergarten. For this purpose, the parent or guardian shall sign
69 a written document making the election with the governing body of the school
70 district in which the parent or guardian resides. The form of this written document
71 must be prescribed by regulation of the Department of Education. Upon the
72 written election being executed, that child is not required to attend kindergarten.
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75 **Section III:** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage of the South Carolina Student
76 Legislature and signature into law by its Governor.
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90 Governor _____