

SENATE NO. 343

AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND TO STRENGTHEN PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of chapter 76 of the general laws, as most recently appearing in the 2002
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended, by striking out the words “twenty dollars,” and inserting in
3 place thereof, the words “fifty dollars for each day of absence in excess of seven day sessions or
4 fourteen half day sessions, or one day of community service for each day of student absence in
5 excess of the number herein, or both a fine of not less than fifty dollars and a day of community
6 service for each day of excessive absence. The court may order community service for the student
7 in addition to, or in place of, the parents.”

8 SECTION 2. Section 2 of said chapter 76 is hereby further amended, by inserting after the second
9 sentence, the following new sentence:

10 For purposes of this section, a student who is late for school for more than ten days in a school year
11 shall be considered to be absent for one-half day for each additional instance of tardiness in excess
12 of ten recorded cases of tardiness in that school year.

13 SECTION 3. Section 2 of said chapter 76 is hereby further amended, by inserting at the end thereof
14 the following:

15 One half of all fines under the provisions of this section shall inure and be applied to the support of
16 the public schools in the city, town, or district where the offense was committed, and the balance
17 shall be retained by the court having jurisdiction. In the case of penalties of community service, the
18 school committee of the city, town, or district shall have the right of first refusal for assignment of
19 community service workers.