

 <b>KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Premiere Bill</b>	<b>Blue   Bill # HBP 11</b>						
	<b>Referred to Committee: House 3</b>						
<b>Authors:</b> Ashley Fulkerson, Katie Ivie, Luke Johnson, Hayden Sauer	<b>Action on the Bill</b>  <table> <tr> <td><b>House</b></td> <td><b>Senate</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	<b>House</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
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<input type="checkbox"/> Passed		<input type="checkbox"/> Passed					
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<b>School:</b> Holy Name School							
<b>City:</b> Henderson							

1 An act to eliminate sentencing runaways and truants to juvenile detention centers

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3 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

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5 Section One: Kentucky is second in the nation (only behind the state of Washington) for jailing its juveniles.  
6 One in six of the jailed youths is for a minor offense: runaway or truant.

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8 Section Two: Definitions

9 Runaway - youth who left home without permission or notice

10 Truant - youth who is absent from school without permission or notice; not ill

11 Youth/Juvenile - person under the age of 18

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13 Section Three: Currently, 1,500 runaways and truants in Kentucky (children who do not attend school) are  
14 sent to juvenile detention centers with dangerous violent offenders (ex: those convicted of rape or assault  
15 with gun/knife). This is against US federal guidelines. Truants avoid school for many reasons (depression,  
16 family problems, anxiety), this does not make them "bad" children who need to be locked up with violent and  
17 aggressive people.

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19 Section Four: Students who run away or do not attend school do not benefit from juvenile detention centers.  
20 While there, they simply learn from others how to become violent offenders. Students are not obtaining a  
21 quality education while at a juvenile detention facility. If the point of the punishment is to teach a truant to  
22 go to school, then send them to school, not to jail.

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24 Section Five: Runaways and truants could benefit from private or family counseling. That does not happen at  
25 a juvenile detention facility. Juvenile detention centers are not in the business of resolving personal or family  
26 conflicts; they simply remove individuals from society. The same problems exist when the children are  
27 released, thus forcing them to the same behaviors from before.

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29 Section Six: Last year, jailing runaways and truants cost the state of Kentucky about \$2 million. The cost per  
30 day for a juvenile in a facility is \$210 per day. In contrast, the profit a school gets every day a student is  
31 present is \$26.80. In other words, schools are paid \$26.80 per day per student.

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33 Section Seven: A better plan would be for school administrators, counselors, and court designated workers  
34 to counsel juveniles and their families through conflicts causing them to be truants and/or runaways.  
35 Because meeting with students who are in the court system is already a part of their job, there is no  
36 additional cost to the program. Meetings would just be more frequent, the focus should be on resolving the  
37 conflicts, not punishing the students.

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39 Section Eight: This bill will go into effect on July 1, 2014.