

Section Number(s)	Details in Bill
Section 1	Removes the requirement that school counselors follow the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics and requires the State Department of Education to develop its own model code of professional ethics.
Section 2	<p>Provides a \$2,000 pay raise across the teacher salary schedule.</p> <p>Removes the provision stating that compensation for retired teachers may not exceed 125% of the salary schedule amount, with no more than 50% paid as salary and the remainder remitted to PERS.</p> <p>Creates a \$2,000 salary supplement for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensed full-time special education teachers</li> <li>• Occupational therapists certified by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy</li> <li>• Certified school psychologists employed by a local school board</li> </ul>
Section 3	<p>Increases minimum assistant teacher pay by \$2,000.</p> <p>Requires districts to pay at least the state minimum salary and prohibits reducing local supplements below the prior year’s level when the state minimum increases. Imposes a penalty equal to twice the amount of any reduction for districts that violate this requirement.</p>
Section 4	Increases the base student amount in the funding formula from \$6,695.34 to \$7,201.77 for FY 2027.
Section 5	<p>Broadens and clarifies eligibility requirements for school attendance officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes three pathways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bachelor’s degree in a related field</li> <li>○ Associate’s degree plus relevant experience</li> <li>○ Three years of related experience</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Expands qualifying degree fields and acceptable experience</li> </ul> <p>Requires the state to fund one attendance officer per 4,000 compulsory-school-aged children.</p> <p>Creates a new salary scale for newly hired attendance officers (starting at \$29,528), ensures no current officer is paid less than their June 30, 2026 salary, and allows local salary supplements.</p>
Section 6	<p>Redefines “school day” as the portion of the day during which instruction is provided, as set by the school board and aligned with State Board requirements.</p> <p>Defines full-day attendance as 66% of the instructional day (absence threshold reduced from 37% to 33% of school day).</p> <p>Adds new attendance requirements:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires medical documentation after the first illness-related absence and for medical appointments in order for absence to be excused.</li> <li>• Limits excused absences to 5 per semester, unless approved for extenuating circumstances.</li> <li>• Defines chronic absenteeism as missing more than 10% of the school year (excused or unexcused).</li> </ul> <p>Requires districts to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and report chronic absenteeism</li> <li>• Develop tiered interventions and parent engagement strategies</li> <li>• Implement a reduction plan if absenteeism exceeds 10% for any subgroup or grade level</li> </ul> <p>Requires MDE to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support districts in developing strategies in reducing absenteeism</li> <li>• Publish chronic absenteeism data</li> <li>• Adopt rules to ensure reporting of unlawful absences and enforce compliance</li> </ul> <p>Lowers the threshold for a prima facie case against a parent from 12 to 8 unlawful absences.</p>
Section 7	Updates reference to funding formula provisions.
Section 8	Removes the requirement that MDE distribute funds to districts and charter schools on December 15 (or next business day) for the month of December. It appears that this was intended to address the gap between December and January paychecks, but the change may not achieve that outcome.
Section 9	<p>Repeals the law allowing certain retired teachers to return to work while receiving retirement benefits under specific conditions.</p> <p>The repealed provisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowing retired teachers to work and receive both salary and pension</li> <li>• Limiting employment to shortage areas</li> <li>• Capping participation at five years</li> <li>• Setting compensation at up to 125% of the salary schedule, with 50% paid to PERS</li> <li>• Requiring certification of no prearranged rehire and prior satisfactory performance</li> <li>• Redirecting state and local funds to support pension obligations</li> </ul>
Section 10	<p>Section 9 takes effect July 2, 2026.</p> <p>All other sections take effect July 1, 2026.</p>