

Wilmington, Delaware
February 16, 2017

#4324

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Chukwuocha**

Co-Sponsors:

**Council
Members
Williams**
Harlee
Walsh

Council
President
Walsh

WHEREAS, an Act to amend Title 14 of the Delaware General Code relating to school attendance has been presented to the State General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 17, sponsored by State Representatives Earl Jaques, Helene Keeley, and Harvey Kenton, seeks to increase the compulsory education age from 16 years to 17 years; and

WHEREAS, the Bill is in alignment with local- and State-sponsored initiatives focused on improving the educational outcomes for City of Wilmington ("City") students; and

WHEREAS, increasing the compulsory education age from 16 to 17 years would aid the City and the school districts serving our students with decreasing dropout rates and increasing graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, the measure, which aims to reduce truancy and dropout rates, would have a lofty impact within our communities and the City as we strive to create a globally competitive educated workforce; and

WHEREAS, increasing the compulsory education age from 16 to 17 years also decreases the likelihood that students would unsuccessfully end their educational career due to being "lost in the system," because mandating that the student attend school until the age of 17 years enables the student and his or her family to receive the school- and district-based support available; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes support the efforts of the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission (WEIC), the Wilmington Education Strategies Think Tank (WESTT), and the Wilmington City Council Education, Youth and Families

Committee, which seek to advocate for City-specific agendas that improve the educational outcomes for City students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Council supports House Bill No. 17 and believes that it will have a significant and lasting impact on education within our City and State, and further encourages the members of the Delaware General Assembly to vote to approve the legislation.

Passed by City Council,
February 16, 2017

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 15th
day of February, 2017.

Chad D. Reo

Assistant City Solicitor