

JAN 28 2004  
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2108  
BY HUTTER

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act to eliminate the school start date and providing for  
2 related matters.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2108

1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2003, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. The school year shall begin annually on the ~~first-day~~  
4 ~~of July and each regularly established elementary and~~  
5 ~~secondary school shall begin no sooner than a day during the~~  
6 ~~calendar week in which the first day of September falls but no~~  
7 ~~later than the first Monday in December. -- However, if the~~  
8 ~~first day of September falls on a Sunday, school may begin on~~  
9 ~~a day during the calendar week which immediately precedes the~~  
10 ~~first day of September. -- School~~ 1 and end on June 30 of the  
11 following year. The school calendar shall ~~continue for~~  
12 consist of at least one hundred eighty days, except as  
13 provided in subsection 3, and may be maintained during the  
14 entire calendar school year. However, if the board of  
15 directors of a district extends the school calendar because  
16 inclement weather caused the district to temporarily close  
17 school during the regular school calendar, the district may  
18 excuse a graduating senior who has met district or school  
19 requirements for graduation from attendance during the  
20 extended school calendar. A school corporation may begin  
21 employment of personnel for in-service training and  
22 development purposes before the date to begin elementary and  
23 secondary school.

24 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2003, is  
25 amended by striking the subsection.

26 Sec. 3. Section 299.4, Code 2003, is amended to read as  
27 follows:

28 299.4 REPORTS AS TO PRIVATE INSTRUCTION.

29 The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child who is  
30 of compulsory attendance age, who places the child under  
31 competent private instruction under either section 299A.2 or  
32 299A.3, not in an accredited school or a home school  
33 assistance program operated by a public or accredited  
34 nonpublic school, shall furnish to the public school district,  
35 by September 15 annually, a report in duplicate on forms

1 provided by the public school district, ~~to the district by the~~  
2 ~~earliest starting date specified in section 279.10, subsection~~  
3 ~~1.~~ The secretary shall retain and file one copy and forward  
4 the other copy to the district's area education agency. The  
5 report shall state the name and age of the child, the period  
6 of time during which the child has been or will be under  
7 competent private instruction for the year, an outline of the  
8 course of study, texts used, and the name and address of the  
9 instructor. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a  
10 child, who is placing the child under competent private  
11 instruction for the first time, shall also provide the  
12 district with evidence that the child has had the  
13 immunizations required under section 139A.8. The term  
14 "outline of course of study" shall include subjects covered,  
15 lesson plans, and time spent on the areas of study.

16 Sec. 4. Section 257.17, Code 2003, is repealed.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill eliminates language specifying the earliest date  
19 a school can begin its calendar and provides that the school  
20 year shall begin annually on July 1 and end on June 30 of the  
21 following year. The bill also states that the school calendar  
22 shall consist of at least 180 days unless the school district  
23 requests approval from the department of education for a pilot  
24 program for an innovative school year. The bill strikes a  
25 related provision that permits the director of the department  
26 to waive the requirement for the school start date upon the  
27 request of a school. The bill also provides that a report  
28 filed for a child placed under competent private instruction,  
29 which current Code states must be filed by the earliest school  
30 start date, must be filed by September 15 annually. The bill  
31 repeals a provision that reduces state aid payments to a  
32 school if the school commences classes prior to the earliest  
33 starting date.

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