

**House File 307 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 307  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 13)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act modifying the school start date limitation and  
2 eliminating the related waiver.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.17, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **257.17 Aid reduction for early school starts.**

4 State aid payments made pursuant to section 257.16 for a  
5 fiscal year shall be reduced by one one-hundred-eightieth for  
6 each day of that fiscal year for which the school district  
7 begins school before the earliest starting date specified in  
8 section 279.10, subsection 1. ~~However, this section does not  
9 apply to a school district that has received approval from the  
10 director of the department of education under section 279.10,  
11 subsection 4, to commence classes for regularly established  
12 elementary and secondary schools in advance of the starting  
13 date established in section 279.10, subsection 1.~~

14 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2015, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16 1. The school year for each school district and accredited  
17 nonpublic school shall begin on July 1 and each ~~regularly  
18 established elementary and secondary school~~ the school calendar  
19 shall begin no sooner than ~~a day during the calendar week in  
20 which the first day of September falls but~~ August 23 and no  
21 later than the first Monday in December. ~~However, if the first  
22 day of September falls on a Sunday, school may begin on a day  
23 during the calendar week which immediately precedes the first  
24 day of September.~~ The school calendar shall include not less  
25 than one hundred eighty days, except as provided in subsection  
26 3, or one thousand eighty hours of instruction during the  
27 calendar year. The board of directors of a school district and  
28 the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school  
29 shall determine the school start date for the school calendar  
30 in accordance with this subsection and shall set the number  
31 of days or hours of required attendance for the school year  
32 as provided in section 299.1, subsection 2, but the board of  
33 directors of a school district shall hold a public hearing  
34 on any proposed school calendar prior to adopting the school  
35 calendar. If the board of directors of a district or the

1 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school extends  
2 the school calendar because inclement weather caused the school  
3 district or accredited nonpublic school to temporarily close  
4 during the regular school calendar, the school district or  
5 accredited nonpublic school may excuse a graduating senior  
6 who has met district or school requirements for graduation  
7 from attendance during the extended school calendar. A school  
8 corporation may begin employment of personnel for in-service  
9 training and development purposes before the date to begin  
10 elementary and secondary school.

11 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended  
12 by striking the subsection.

13

EXPLANATION

14 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
15 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

16 This bill modifies language prohibiting an early school  
17 start date for a school calendar by providing that school  
18 districts and accredited nonpublic schools cannot begin their  
19 school calendar any sooner than August 23. The bill eliminates  
20 a provision that authorizes the department of education  
21 to grant waivers to allow school districts and accredited  
22 nonpublic schools to commence classes prior to the earliest  
23 start date, and makes a corresponding change in a provision  
24 that establishes an aid reduction penalty for early school  
25 starts by school districts.

26 Current law prohibits school districts and accredited  
27 nonpublic schools from beginning the school calendar prior to  
28 a day during the calendar week in which September 1 falls or,  
29 if September 1 falls on a Sunday, prior to a day during the  
30 calendar week which immediately precedes September 1.