

Senate File 227 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 227
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1058)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the school start date and eliminating waiver
2 and penalty provisions.

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

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

3 1. The school year for each school district and accredited
4 nonpublic school shall begin on July 1 ~~and each regularly~~
5 ~~established elementary and secondary school shall begin no~~
6 ~~sooner than a day during the calendar week in which the first~~
7 ~~day of September falls but no later than the first Monday in~~
8 ~~December. However, if the first day of September falls on a~~
9 ~~Sunday, school may begin on a day during the calendar week~~
10 ~~which immediately precedes the first day of September. The~~
11 school calendar shall include not less than one hundred eighty
12 days, except as provided in subsection 3, or one thousand
13 eighty hours of instruction during the calendar year. The
14 board of directors of a school district and the authorities in
15 charge of an accredited nonpublic school shall determine the
16 school start date for the school calendar based on the best
17 educational interests of the students and shall set the number
18 of days or hours of required attendance for the school year
19 as provided in section 299.1, subsection 2, but the board of
20 directors of a school district shall hold a public hearing
21 on any proposed school calendar prior to adopting the school
22 calendar. If the board of directors of a district or the
23 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school extends
24 the school calendar because inclement weather caused the school
25 district or accredited nonpublic school to temporarily close
26 during the regular school calendar, the school district or
27 accredited nonpublic school may excuse a graduating senior
28 who has met district or school requirements for graduation
29 from attendance during the extended school calendar. A school
30 corporation may begin employment of personnel for in-service
31 training and development purposes before the date to begin
32 elementary and secondary school.

33 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended
34 by striking the subsection.

35 Sec. 3. REPEAL. Section 257.17, Code 2015, is repealed.

1

EXPLANATION

2

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

3

4 This bill eliminates language prohibiting an early school
5 start date for a school calendar, and instead authorizes
6 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to determine
7 the school start date for the school calendar based on the
8 best educational interests of the students. The bill also
9 eliminates a provision that authorizes the department of
10 education to grant waivers to allow school districts and
11 accredited nonpublic schools to commence classes prior to
12 the earliest starting date, and repeals a provision that
13 establishes an aid reduction penalty for early school starts by
14 school districts.