

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION BILL)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to school instructional time.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, Code 2013, as  
2 amended by 2013 Iowa Acts, chapter 121, section 79, is amended  
3 to read as follows:

4 19. Define For a school or school district with a school  
5 calendar measuring instructional time in days pursuant to  
6 section 279.10, subsection 1, define the minimum school day as  
7 a day consisting of six hours of instructional ~~days or time~~  
8 for grades one through twelve. The minimum hours as time that  
9 shall be exclusive of the lunch period, but may include passing  
10 time between classes. Time spent on parent-teacher conferences  
11 shall be considered instructional time. A school or school  
12 district may record a day of school with less than the minimum  
13 instructional hours as a minimum school day if any of the  
14 following apply:

15 a. If emergency health or safety factors require the late  
16 arrival or early dismissal of students on a specific day.

17 b. If the total hours of instructional school time for  
18 grades one through twelve for any five consecutive school  
19 days equal a minimum of thirty hours, even though any one  
20 day of school is less than the minimum instructional hours  
21 because of a staff development opportunity provided for the  
22 professional instructional staff or because parent-teacher  
23 conferences have been scheduled beyond the regular school day.  
24 Furthermore, if the total hours of instructional time for the  
25 first four consecutive days equal at least thirty hours because  
26 parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled beyond the  
27 regular school day, a school or school district may record zero  
28 hours of instructional time on the fifth consecutive school day  
29 as a minimum school day.

30 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended  
31 to read as follows:

32 4. The director of the department of education may grant  
33 a request made by a board of directors of a school district  
34 or the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic  
35 school stating its desire to commence classes for regularly

1 established elementary and secondary schools prior to the  
2 earliest starting date specified in subsection 1. A request  
3 shall be based upon the determination that a starting date on  
4 or after the earliest starting date specified in subsection 1  
5 would have a significant negative educational impact.

6

EXPLANATION

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

9       This bill restores language struck by 2013 Iowa Acts,  
10 chapter 121 (House File 215) that permits a school or school  
11 district with a school calendar measuring instructional  
12 time in days to record a day of school with less than the  
13 minimum instructional hours as a minimum school day for  
14 emergency health or safety factors and for staff development  
15 opportunities and parent-teacher conferences. However, the  
16 bill provides that a minimum school day shall consist of six  
17 hours of instructional time.

18       The bill also provides that the department of education  
19 may grant a request made by the authorities in charge of an  
20 accredited nonpublic school to start school earlier than the  
21 statutory school start date during the calendar week in which  
22 the first day of September falls.