

FEB 10 2000
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE
BY SCHRADER

2215

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the school year beginning date.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2215

1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 1999, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. The school year shall begin annually on the first day
4 of July 1 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 and the following June
8 30. However, ~~if the first day of September falls on a Sunday,~~
9 school may begin on a day during the calendar week which
10 immediately precedes the first day of September. ~~School~~ The
11 regular school calendar may commence on or after July 1, but
12 once commenced shall continue for at least one hundred eighty
13 days, except as provided in subsection 3, ~~and may be~~
14 ~~maintained during the entire calendar year.~~ However, if the
15 board of directors of a district extends the school calendar
16 because inclement weather caused the district to temporarily
17 close school during the regular school calendar, the district
18 may 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 1999, is
25 amended by striking the subsection.

26 Sec. 3. Section 299.4, Code 1999, 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 a report in duplicate on forms
35 provided by the public school district, to the district by the

1 ~~earliest-starting-date-specified-in-section-279-107-subsection~~
2 ± August 15 of the school year in which the child is placed
3 under private instruction. The secretary shall retain and
4 file one copy and forward the other copy to the district's
5 area education agency. The report shall state the name and
6 age of the child, the period of time during which the child
7 has been or will be under competent private instruction for
8 the year, an outline of the course of study, texts used, and
9 the name and address of the instructor. The parent, guardian,
10 or legal custodian of a child, who is placing the child under
11 competent private instruction, for the first time, shall also
12 provide the district with evidence that the child has had the
13 immunizations required under section 139.9. The term "outline"
14 of course of study" shall include subjects covered, lesson
15 plans, and time spent on the areas of study.

16 Sec. 4. Section 257.17, Code 1999, is repealed.

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EXPLANATION

18 This bill abolishes the school start date requirement and
19 makes related changes.

20 The bill specifies that the annual school year begins on
21 July 1 and ends the following June 30. Once commenced, The
22 bill requires that the school calendar continue for at least
23 180 days. Currently, schools must begin their school calendar
24 no sooner than a day during the calendar week in which the
25 first day of September falls, and no later than the first
26 Monday in December. The bill strikes a subsection that
27 permits a school to apply to the department of education for a
28 waiver from the school start date, and repeals a Code section
29 that penalizes schools by reducing their state aid payments if
30 they begin their calendars early. In accordance with the
31 change in the school start date, the bill establishes a
32 deadline of August 15 for the filing of a report that a parent
33 who places a child under competent private instruction must
34 furnish to the school district of residence. Currently, the
35 report must be furnished by the earliest starting date

1 specified in the Code, which under the bill is July 1.

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