

MAR 2 1999

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 456
BY COHOON

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

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

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HF 456

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 school district 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 September 1 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.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill permits a school to begin its school calendar on
19 or after July 1, but once commenced, the calendar must
20 continue for at least 180 days. Currently, schools must begin
21 their school calendar no sooner than a day during the calendar
22 week in which the first day of September falls and no later
23 than the first Monday in December. The bill also repeals a
24 Code section that penalizes schools by reducing their state
25 aid payments if they begin their calendars early. The bill
26 specifies that the annual school year begins on July 1 and
27 ends the following June 30.

28 Currently, the Code requires a parent, guardian, or legal
29 custodian who places a child under competent private
30 instruction to furnish a report to the school district of
31 residence by the earliest starting date specified in the Code.
32 In accordance with the change in the school start date, the
33 bill requires that the report be filed with the district by
34 September 1 of the school year in which the child is placed
35 under private instruction.