

FEB 6 2006
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2253
BY MAY

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

A BILL FOR

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

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1 Section 1. Section 257.17, Code 2005, is amended to read
2 as 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 2005, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 1. The Except as provided in subsections 3 and 4, the
17 school year shall begin on the first day of July and each
18 regularly established elementary and secondary school shall
19 begin no sooner than a day during the calendar week in which
20 the first day of September falls but no later than the first
21 Monday in December. However, if the first day of September
22 falls on a Sunday, school may begin on a day during the
23 calendar week which immediately precedes the first day of
24 September. School shall continue for at least one hundred
25 eighty days, except as provided in subsection 3, and may be
26 maintained during the entire calendar year. However, if the
27 board of directors of a district extends the school calendar
28 because inclement weather caused the district to temporarily
29 close school during the regular school calendar, the district
30 may excuse a graduating senior who has met district or school
31 requirements for graduation from attendance during the
32 extended school calendar. A school corporation may begin
33 employment of personnel for in-service training and
34 development purposes before the date to begin elementary and
35 secondary school.

1 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 2, Code 2005, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on
4 any ~~proposal~~ request made pursuant to subsection 3 prior to
5 submitting it to the department of education for approval.

6 Sec. 4. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2005, is
7 amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu
8 thereof the following:

9 4. A school district which received, not later than July
10 1, 2006, state board of education approval to maintain a year
11 around three-semester school year pursuant to section 256.20,
12 Code 2005, shall be exempt from the school start date
13 requirements of subsection 1. In addition, the director of
14 the department of education may exempt up to five laboratory
15 schools operated under chapter 265 from the school start date
16 requirements of this subsection.

17 Sec. 5. Section 256.20, Code 2005, is repealed.

18 EXPLANATION

19 This bill eliminates the authority of the director of the
20 department of education to grant a request made by a board of
21 directors of a school district to commence classes prior to
22 the earliest starting date allowed, which is no sooner than a
23 day during the calendar week in which the first day of
24 September falls or, if the first day of September falls on a
25 Sunday, a day during the prior week. The bill strikes a
26 provision that allows school districts to request approval for
27 a year around three-semester school year, but allows
28 exemptions for school districts that attained state board of
29 education approval to operate year around three-semester
30 school years prior to July 1, 2006. The bill permits the
31 director to exempt up to five laboratory schools operated by
32 state universities. The bill includes a technical correction
33 relating to public hearings which must be held prior to the
34 submission of a request for a pilot program for an innovative
35 school year.