

# House File 589 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 351)

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the school calendar and school start dates and  
2 providing effective and applicability dates.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 1885HV 83  
5 kh/rj/8

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1 1 Section 1. Section 257.17, Code 2009, is amended to read  
1 2 as follows:  
1 3 257.17 AID REDUCTION FOR EARLY SCHOOL STARTS.  
1 4 State aid payments made pursuant to section 257.16 for a  
1 5 fiscal year shall be reduced by one one-hundred-eightieth for  
1 6 each day of that fiscal year for which the school district  
1 7 begins school before the earliest starting date specified in  
1 8 section 279.10, subsection 1. However, this section does not  
1 9 apply to a school district that has received approval from the  
1 10 ~~director of the department of education under section 279.10,~~  
~~1 11 subsection 4, to commence classes for regularly established~~  
~~1 12 elementary and secondary schools in advance of the starting~~  
~~1 13 date established in for a pilot program for an innovative~~  
1 14 school year in accordance with section 279.10, subsection 3.  
1 15 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2009,  
1 16 are amended to read as follows:  
1 17 1. The school year shall begin on the first day of July  
1 18 and each regularly established elementary and secondary school  
1 19 shall begin no sooner than ~~a day during the calendar week in~~  
~~1 20 which the first day of September falls the fourth Monday in~~  
~~1 21 August~~ but no later than the first Monday in December.  
~~1 22 However, if the first day of September falls on a Sunday,~~  
~~1 23 school may begin on a day during the calendar week which~~  
~~1 24 immediately precedes the first day of September unless the~~  
1 25 school district has received approval from the department of  
1 26 education for a pilot program for an innovative school year in  
1 27 accordance with subsection 3. School shall continue for at  
1 28 least one hundred eighty days, except as provided in  
1 29 subsection 3, and may be maintained during the entire calendar  
1 30 year. However, if the board of directors of a district  
1 31 extends the school calendar because inclement weather caused  
1 32 the district to temporarily close school during the regular  
1 33 school calendar, the district may excuse a graduating senior  
1 34 who has met district or school requirements for graduation  
1 35 from attendance during the extended school calendar. A school  
2 1 corporation may begin employment of personnel for in-service  
2 2 training and development purposes before the date to begin  
2 3 elementary and secondary school. The earliest starting date  
2 4 specified in this subsection shall not apply to a school  
2 5 district which maintains a year around three semester school  
2 6 year.  
2 7 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on  
2 8 any ~~proposal request made pursuant to subsection 3~~ prior to  
2 9 submitting it to the department of education for approval.  
2 10 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2009, is  
2 11 amended by striking the subsection.  
2 12 Sec. 4. Section 280.3, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended  
2 13 to read as follows:  
2 14 1. The board of directors of each public school district  
2 15 and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall  
2 16 prescribe the minimum educational program and an attendance  
2 17 policy which shall require each child to attend school for at  
2 18 least one hundred forty-eight days, to be met by attendance

2 19 for at least thirty-seven days each school quarter, for the  
2 20 schools under their jurisdictions. Each public school and  
2 21 nonpublic school shall comply with the start date and school  
2 22 calendar requirements specified in section 279.10, subsection  
2 23 1.

2 24 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES. This Act takes effect July 1,  
2 25 2010, and is applicable for school years beginning on or after  
2 26 that date.

2 27 EXPLANATION

2 28 This bill eliminates the authority of the department of  
2 29 education to grant a request made by a board of directors of a  
2 30 school district to commence classes prior to the earliest  
2 31 starting date allowed, which currently is no sooner than a day  
2 32 during the calendar week in which the first day of September  
2 33 falls or, if the first day of September falls on a Sunday, a  
2 34 day during the prior week.

2 35 The bill establishes the earliest starting date as the  
3 1 fourth Monday in August and requires public and nonpublic  
3 2 schools to comply with the start date and school calendar  
3 3 provisions.

3 4 The bill takes effect July 1, 2010, for the school year  
3 5 beginning July 1, 2010.

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