

House Study Bill 671 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON SANDS)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to early school start date provisions,
2 establishing a waiver application fee, and including
3 effective date and applicability provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.17, Code 2011, is amended to read as
2 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
9 not apply to a school district that has received approval
10 from the ~~director of the~~ department of education under for
11 a pilot program for an innovative school year in accordance
12 with section 279.10, subsection 4 3, or to commence classes
13 for regularly established elementary and secondary schools in
14 advance of the ~~starting~~ earliest start date established in
15 accordance with section 279.10, subsection ~~±~~ 4.

16 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsections 1, 2, and 4, Code 2011,
17 are amended to read as follows:

18 1. The school year shall begin on the first day of July
19 and each regularly established elementary and secondary school
20 shall begin no sooner than ~~a day during the calendar week in~~
21 ~~which the first day of September falls 1,~~ but no later than
22 the first Monday in December. ~~However, if the first day of~~
23 ~~September falls on a Sunday, school may begin on a day during~~
24 ~~the calendar week which immediately precedes the first day of~~
25 September, unless the school district has received approval
26 from the department of education for a pilot program for an
27 innovative school year in accordance with subsection 3 or for
28 an early start date pursuant to subsection 4. The earliest
29 start date specified in this section shall not apply to a
30 school district that maintains a year around three-semester
31 school year. School shall continue for at least one hundred
32 eighty days, except as provided in subsection 3, and may be
33 maintained during the entire calendar year. However, if the
34 board of directors of a district extends the school calendar
35 because inclement weather caused the district to temporarily

1 close school during the regular school calendar, the district
2 may excuse a graduating senior who has met district or school
3 requirements for graduation from attendance during the extended
4 school calendar. A school corporation may begin employment
5 of personnel for in-service training and development purposes
6 before the date to begin elementary and secondary school.

7 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on
8 any proposal for a pilot program for an innovative school year
9 prior to submitting ~~it~~ such a request to the department of
10 education for approval pursuant to subsection 3.

11 4. ~~The director of the~~ department of education may grant
12 a request made by a board of directors of a school district
13 ~~stating its desire to waive the start day restriction in~~
14 subsection 1, and to commence classes for regularly established
15 elementary and secondary schools prior to the earliest ~~starting~~
16 start date specified in subsection 1, but the earliest start
17 date granted shall be no earlier than the fourth Monday of
18 August. ~~A request shall be based upon the determination that a~~
19 ~~starting date on or after the earliest starting date specified~~
20 ~~in subsection 1 would have a significant negative educational~~
21 ~~impact.~~ The department shall charge one hundred dollars as a
22 waiver application fee. The fees collected by the department
23 shall be deposited in the general fund of the state.

24 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 2013.

25 Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY. This Act is applicable to school
26 years beginning on or after July 1, 2013.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill changes the earliest school start date to
29 September 1 and limits the authority of the department of
30 education to grant a school district's request to commence
31 classes prior to the earliest start date allowed to a date no
32 earlier than the fourth Monday of August. The bill requires
33 the department to charge a waiver application fee of \$100,
34 which the department must deposit in the general fund of the
35 state.

1 Currently the earliest start date is a day during the
2 calendar week in which the first day of September falls or,
3 if the first day of September falls on a Sunday, a day during
4 the prior week, and the earliest start date the department
5 is authorized to grant is unspecified. School districts
6 that maintain a year around three-semester school year or
7 an innovative school year pilot program are exempt from the
8 earliest start date requirements.

9 The bill makes conforming changes to modify a provision
10 that provides for a reduction in school foundation aid when
11 school districts implement early school starts. The bill also
12 includes a technical correction.

13 The bill takes effect July 1, 2013, for school years
14 beginning on or after July 1, 2013.