

**Senate File 135 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 135

BY MCKINLEY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the minimum hours of instructional time in  
2 a school day for school districts, charter schools, and  
3 accredited nonpublic schools and including effective date  
4 and applicability provisions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, unnumbered  
2 paragraph 1, Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

3 Define the minimum school day as a day consisting of ~~five~~  
4 ~~and one-half~~ seven hours of instructional time for grades one  
5 through twelve. The minimum hours shall be exclusive of the  
6 lunch period, but may include passing time between classes.  
7 Time spent on parent-teacher conferences shall be considered  
8 instructional time. A school or school district may record a  
9 day of school with less than the minimum instructional hours as  
10 a minimum school day if any of the following apply:

11 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 19, paragraph b, Code  
12 2011, is amended to read as follows:

13 b. If the total hours of instructional school time for  
14 grades one through twelve for any five consecutive school  
15 days equal a minimum of ~~twenty-seven and one-half~~ thirty-five  
16 hours, even though any one day of school is less than the  
17 minimum instructional hours because of a staff development  
18 opportunity provided for the professional instructional staff  
19 or because parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled  
20 beyond the regular school day. Furthermore, if the total hours  
21 of instructional time for the first four consecutive days equal  
22 at least ~~twenty-seven and one-half~~ thirty-five hours because  
23 parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled beyond the  
24 regular school day, a school or school district may record zero  
25 hours of instructional time on the fifth consecutive school day  
26 as a minimum school day.

27 Sec. 3. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
28 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
29 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
30 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
31 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
32 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
33 to meet all the state funding-related requirements of section  
34 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall  
35 be necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and

1 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

2 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 2013.

3 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school years  
4 beginning on or after July 1, 2013.

5 EXPLANATION

6 This bill increases the hours in the minimum school day from  
7 five and one-half hours to seven hours, or from 27.5 hours  
8 per week to 35 hours per week for school districts, charter  
9 schools, and accredited nonpublic schools.

10 This bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
11 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
12 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
13 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
14 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
15 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
16 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
17 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
18 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
19 mandates included in the bill.

20 The bill takes effect July 1, 2013, for school years  
21 beginning on or after that date.