

Senate File 37 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 37

BY JOHNSON, KAPUCIAN, and
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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to early school starts and including effective
2 date and applicability provisions.

3 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 a
11 pilot program for an innovative school year in accordance with
12 section 279.10, subsection 4, to commence classes for regularly
13 established elementary and secondary schools in advance of the
14 starting date established in section 279.10, subsection 1 3.

15 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended
16 to read as follows:

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

1 development purposes before the date to begin elementary and
2 secondary school.

3 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 2, Code 2011, is amended
4 to read as follows:

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

8 Sec. 4. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2011, is amended
9 by striking the subsection.

10 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES. The section of this Act that
11 amends section 279.10, subsection 2, being deemed of immediate
12 importance, takes effect upon enactment, and the remainder of
13 this Act takes effect July 1, 2012, and is applicable for
14 school years beginning on or after that date.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill changes, effective for the school year beginning
17 July 1, 2012, the earliest school start date to August 25 and
18 eliminates the authority of the director of the department of
19 education to grant a request made by a board of directors of
20 a school district to commence classes prior to the earliest
21 starting date allowed, which currently is no sooner than a day
22 during the calendar week in which the first day of September
23 falls or, if the first day of September falls on a Sunday, a day
24 during the prior week.

25 The bill makes a conforming change to eliminate an
26 exemption from aid reduction for early school starts, unless
27 the exemption is for a school district approved to implement
28 an innovative school year. Without the waiver, the school
29 district's state aid payments are reduced by 1/180 for each day
30 of that fiscal year for which the school district begins school
31 before the earliest starting date allowed. The bill includes a
32 technical correction that takes effect upon enactment.