

House File 315 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 315

BY COWNIE and J. SMITH

A BILL FOR

1 An Act eliminating the department of education's authority to
2 approve certain requests to waive the school start date.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.17, Code 2013, 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 not
9 apply to a school district that has received approval from the
10 ~~director of state board of education for a year around school~~
11 year under section 256.20, or from the department of education
12 ~~under section 279.10, subsection 4, to commence classes for~~
13 ~~regularly established elementary and secondary schools in~~
14 ~~advance of the starting date established for a pilot program~~
15 for an innovative school year in accordance with section
16 279.10, subsection ~~±~~ 3.

17 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 2, Code 2013, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on
20 any ~~proposal~~ request for approval made pursuant to subsection
21 3 prior to submitting it to the department of education for
22 approval.

23 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2013, is amended
24 by striking the subsection.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This bill eliminates the department of education's authority
27 to grant a school district's request to waive the earliest
28 school start date allowed, which currently is no sooner than
29 a day during the calendar week in which the first day of
30 September falls or, if the first day of September falls on a
31 Sunday, a day during the prior week.

32 The bill makes a conforming change to eliminate an exemption
33 in a provision that reduces a school district's state aid
34 payments for early school starts unless the school district
35 receives a waiver, but maintains exemptions for a school

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1 district approved to implement an innovative school year or a
2 year around school year.