

House Study Bill 559 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school instructional time.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, Code 2013, as
2 amended by 2013 Iowa Acts, chapter 121, section 79, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 19. Define For a school or school district with a school
5 calendar measuring instructional time in days pursuant to
6 section 279.10, subsection 1, define the minimum school day as
7 a day consisting of six hours of instructional ~~days or time~~
8 for grades one through twelve. The minimum hours as time that
9 shall be exclusive of the lunch period, but may include passing
10 time between classes. Time spent on parent-teacher conferences
11 shall be considered instructional time. A school or school
12 district may record a day of school with less than the minimum
13 instructional hours as a minimum school day if any of the
14 following apply:

15 a. If emergency health or safety factors require the late
16 arrival or early dismissal of students on a specific day.

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

30 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended
31 to read as follows:

32 4. The director of the department of education may grant
33 a request made by a board of directors of a school district
34 or the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic
35 school stating its desire to commence classes for regularly

1 established elementary and secondary schools prior to the
2 earliest starting date specified in subsection 1. A request
3 shall be based upon the determination that a starting date on
4 or after the earliest starting date specified in subsection 1
5 would have a significant negative educational impact.

6

EXPLANATION

7 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
8 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

9 This bill restores language struck by 2013 Iowa Acts,
10 chapter 121 (House File 215) that permits a school or school
11 district with a school calendar measuring instructional
12 time in days to record a day of school with less than the
13 minimum instructional hours as a minimum school day for
14 emergency health or safety factors and for staff development
15 opportunities and parent-teacher conferences. However, the
16 bill provides that a minimum school day shall consist of six
17 hours of instructional time.

18 The bill also provides that the department of education
19 may grant a request made by the authorities in charge of an
20 accredited nonpublic school to start school earlier than the
21 statutory school start date during the calendar week in which
22 the first day of September falls.