

House Study Bill 84 - Introduced

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school instructional hours and school
2 instructional days and including effective date provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, Code 2013, is
2 amended to read as follows:

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

13 ~~a. If emergency health or safety factors require the late~~
14 ~~arrival or early dismissal of students on a specific day.~~

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

28 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 5, Code 2013, is amended
29 to read as follows:

30 5. A charter school or innovation zone school shall provide
31 instruction for at least the number of days hours required by
32 section 279.10, subsection 1, ~~or shall provide at least the~~
33 ~~equivalent number of total hours.~~

34 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
35 to read as follows:

1 1. The school year for each school district and accredited
2 nonpublic school shall begin on ~~the first day of~~ July 1 and
3 each regularly established elementary and secondary school
4 shall begin no sooner than a day during the calendar week
5 in which the first day of September falls but no later than
6 the first Monday in December. However, if the first day of
7 September falls on a Sunday, school may begin on a day during
8 the calendar week which immediately precedes the first day of
9 September. ~~School shall continue for at least one hundred~~
10 ~~eighty days, except as provided in subsection 3, and may be~~
11 maintained The school calendar shall include not less than one
12 thousand eighty hours of instruction during the entire calendar
13 year. ~~However, if~~ The board of directors of a school district
14 and the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic
15 school shall set the number of days of required attendance
16 for the school year as provided in section 299.1, subsection
17 2, but the board of directors of a school district shall
18 hold a public hearing on any proposed school calendar prior
19 to adopting the school calendar. If the board of directors
20 of a district or the authorities in charge of an accredited
21 nonpublic school extends the school calendar because inclement
22 weather caused the school district or accredited nonpublic
23 school to temporarily close ~~school~~ during the regular school
24 calendar, the school district or accredited nonpublic school
25 may excuse a graduating senior who has met district or school
26 requirements for graduation from attendance during the extended
27 school calendar. A school corporation may begin employment
28 of personnel for in-service training and development purposes
29 before the date to begin elementary and secondary school.

30 Sec. 4. Section 279.10, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2013, are
31 amended by striking the subsections.

32 Sec. 5. Section 299.4, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
33 to read as follows:

34 1. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child who
35 is of compulsory attendance age, who places the child under

1 competent private instruction under either section 299A.2 or
2 299A.3, not in an accredited school or a home school assistance
3 program operated by a school district or accredited nonpublic
4 school, shall furnish a report in duplicate on forms provided
5 by the public school district, to the district by ~~the earliest~~
6 ~~starting date specified in section 279.10, subsection 1~~
7 September 1 of the school year in which the child will be under
8 competent private instruction. The secretary shall retain and
9 file one copy and forward the other copy to the district's
10 area education agency. The report shall state the name and
11 age of the child, the period of time during which the child
12 has been or will be under competent private instruction for
13 the year, an outline of the course of study, texts used, and
14 the name and address of the instructor. The parent, guardian,
15 or legal custodian of a child, who is placing the child under
16 competent private instruction for the first time, shall also
17 provide the district with evidence that the child has had the
18 immunizations required under section 139A.8, and, if the child
19 is elementary school age, a blood lead test in accordance with
20 section 135.105D. The term "*outline of course of study*" shall
21 include subjects covered, lesson plans, and time spent on the
22 areas of study.

23 Sec. 6. REPEAL. Section 256.22, Code 2013, is repealed.

24 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 2014.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This bill strikes language requiring accredited schools to
27 provide at least 180 instructional days in a school year and
28 specifying what does and what does not constitute instructional
29 time. The bill replaces the language requiring a 180-day
30 school calendar with a requirement that accredited schools
31 provide at least 1,080 instructional hours during the school
32 calendar in a school year.

33 The school districts and accredited nonpublic schools set
34 the number of days of required attendance for the school year,
35 but school districts must hold a public hearing on a proposed

1 school calendar prior to adopting the school calendar.

2 The bill modifies a provision requiring the state board
3 of education to define the minimum school day. Under the
4 bill, instructional time for grades 1 through 12 is still
5 exclusive of the lunch period and may include passing time
6 between classes, but parent-teacher conferences do not qualify
7 as instructional time. The bill strikes language that permits
8 a school or school district to record a day of school with
9 less than the minimum instructional hours as a minimum school
10 day for emergency health or safety factors and for staff
11 development opportunities.

12 The bill makes conforming changes, including giving a
13 parent, whose child is under competent private instruction,
14 until September 1 to furnish a report providing information
15 about the child and the competent private instruction to the
16 school district of residence. The bill strikes or repeals
17 language that permits the department of education to approve an
18 innovative school year pilot program and language that requires
19 the department to establish an extended year school grant
20 program subject to an appropriation.

21 The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.