

House File 13 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 13

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act eliminating the school start date limitation and related
2 waiver and penalty provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2015, is
2 amended to read as follows:

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

32 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended
33 by striking the subsection.

34 Sec. 3. REPEAL. Section 257.17, Code 2015, is repealed.

35

EXPLANATION

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

3 This bill eliminates language prohibiting an early school
4 start date for a school calendar, and instead authorizes
5 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to determine
6 the school start dates for their school calendars. The bill
7 also eliminates a provision that authorizes the department
8 of education to grant waivers to allow school districts and
9 accredited nonpublic schools to commence classes prior to
10 the earliest starting date, and repeals a provision that
11 establishes an aid reduction penalty for early school starts by
12 school districts.