

House File 615 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 615

BY DONAHUE, MASCHER, KACENA,
GAINES, and ABDUL-SAMAD

A BILL FOR

1 An Act eliminating the option to calculate by hours the
2 instructional time school districts and accredited nonpublic
3 schools must include in the school calendar.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

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

13 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 5, Code 2019, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 5. A charter school or innovation zone school shall provide
16 instruction for at least the number of days ~~or hours~~ required
17 by [section 279.10, subsection 1](#).

18 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2019, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 1. The school year for each school district and accredited
21 nonpublic school shall begin on July 1 and the school calendar
22 shall begin no sooner than August 23 and no later than the
23 first Monday in December. The school calendar shall include
24 not less than one hundred eighty days ~~or one thousand eighty~~
25 ~~hours~~ of instruction during the calendar year. The board
26 of directors of a school district and the authorities in
27 charge of an accredited nonpublic school shall determine the
28 school start date for the school calendar in accordance with
29 this subsection and shall set the number of days ~~or hours~~ of
30 required attendance for the school year as provided in section
31 299.1, subsection 2, but the board of directors of a school
32 district shall hold a public hearing on any proposed school
33 calendar prior to adopting the school calendar. If the board
34 of directors of a district or the authorities in charge of an
35 accredited nonpublic school extends the school calendar because

1 inclement weather caused the school district or accredited
2 nonpublic school to temporarily close during the regular school
3 calendar, the school district or accredited nonpublic school
4 may excuse a graduating senior who has met district or school
5 requirements for graduation from attendance during the extended
6 school calendar. A school corporation may begin employment
7 of personnel for in-service training and development purposes
8 before the date to begin elementary and secondary school.

9 Sec. 4. Section 279.10, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code
10 2019, is amended to read as follows:

11 c. An attendance center or school authorized to maintain a
12 year-round school calendar under **this subsection** shall provide
13 at least ten days of instruction ~~or the hourly equivalent~~
14 during eleven of the twelve months of the school year. The
15 period of time between instructional days shall not exceed six
16 weeks.

17 Sec. 5. Section 299.1, subsection 2, Code 2019, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 2. The board of directors of a public school district or the
20 governing body of an accredited nonpublic school shall set the
21 number of days ~~or hours~~ of required attendance for the schools
22 under its control. The board of directors of a public school
23 district or the governing body of an accredited nonpublic
24 school may, by resolution, require attendance for the entire
25 time when the schools are in session in any school year and
26 adopt a policy or rules relating to the reasons considered to
27 be valid or acceptable excuses for absence from school.

28 EXPLANATION

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

31 This bill eliminates an option for school districts and
32 accredited nonpublic schools to count instructional time
33 required for in the school calendar in hours.

34 Currently the school calendar consists of a minimum of
35 either 180 instructional days or 1,080 instructional hours.

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- 1 Subject to the minimum requirement, school districts and
- 2 accredited nonpublic schools set the number of days or hours of
- 3 required attendance for the school year.
- 4 The bill makes conforming changes.