

**Senate File 129 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 129

BY SCHNEIDER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act to modify the school start date and including effective  
2 date provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2019, 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 the school calendar  
5 shall begin no sooner than a day during the calendar week in  
6 which August 23 falls and no later than the first Monday in  
7 December. However, if August 23 falls on a Saturday, the  
8 school calendar shall begin no sooner than August 25. The  
9 school calendar shall include not less than one hundred eighty  
10 days or one thousand eighty hours of instruction during the  
11 calendar year. The board of directors of a school district and  
12 the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school  
13 shall determine the school start date for the school calendar  
14 in accordance with **this subsection** and shall set the number  
15 of days or hours of required attendance for the school year  
16 as provided in **section 299.1, subsection 2**, but the board of  
17 directors of a school district shall hold a public hearing  
18 on any proposed school calendar prior to adopting the school  
19 calendar. If the board of directors of a district or the  
20 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school extends  
21 the school calendar because inclement weather caused the school  
22 district or accredited nonpublic school to temporarily close  
23 during the regular school calendar, the school district or  
24 accredited nonpublic school may excuse a graduating senior  
25 who has met district or school requirements for graduation  
26 from attendance during the extended school calendar. A school  
27 corporation may begin employment of personnel for in-service  
28 training and development purposes before the date to begin  
29 elementary and secondary school.

30 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
31 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

32 EXPLANATION

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

35 This bill provides that a school district or accredited

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1 nonpublic school cannot begin its school calendar prior to  
2 a day during the calendar week in which August 23 falls.  
3 However, if August 23 falls on a Saturday, the school calendar  
4 shall begin no sooner than August 25.

5     Currently, August 23 is the earliest school start date  
6 allowed.

7     The bill takes effect upon enactment.