

House File 2254 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2254

BY DOLECHECK

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the minimum school calendar requirements
2 and the use of online learning by school districts and
3 accredited nonpublic schools.

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

1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2022, is
2 amended to read as follows:

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

27 b. The board of directors of a school district and the
28 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school may,
29 without prior approval from the department of education,
30 provide online learning to students enrolled in the school
31 district or the accredited nonpublic school for no more than
32 five consecutive school days in a school year or for no more
33 than ten total school days in a school year. The board of
34 directors of a school district and the authorities in charge
35 of an accredited nonpublic school must apply to the department

1 of education for authorization to provide online learning to
2 students enrolled in the school district or the accredited
3 nonpublic school for more than five consecutive school days
4 in a school year or for more than ten total school days in
5 a school year. Any school days of online learning that the
6 department of education authorizes the board of directors of a
7 school district or the authorities in charge of an accredited
8 nonpublic school to provide in excess of ten school days in
9 a school year shall not be considered days of instruction
10 or hours of instruction for purposes of the minimum school
11 calendar requirements in paragraph "a", and the board of
12 directors of the school district or authorities in charge
13 of the accredited nonpublic school shall extend the school
14 calendar an equivalent number of days. For purposes of this
15 paragraph, "online learning" means the same defined in section
16 256.2.

17 EXPLANATION

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

20 This bill relates to the minimum school calendar
21 requirements and the use of online learning by school districts
22 and accredited nonpublic schools.

23 The bill authorizes the board of directors of a school
24 district and the authorities in charge of an accredited
25 nonpublic school to provide online learning to students
26 enrolled in the school district or the accredited nonpublic
27 school for no more than 5 consecutive school days in a school
28 year or for no more than 10 total school days in a school year,
29 without prior approval from the department of education.

30 The bill provides that the board of directors and the
31 authorities must apply to the department of education for
32 authorization to provide online learning to students enrolled
33 in the school district or the accredited nonpublic school for
34 more than 5 consecutive school days in a school year or for
35 more than 10 total school days in a school year.

1 Current law requires the school calendar for school
2 districts and accredited nonpublic schools to include at least
3 180 days of instruction or 1,080 hours of instruction. The
4 bill provides that any school days of online learning that the
5 department authorizes the board of directors or the authorities
6 to provide in excess of the 10-day limitation shall not be
7 considered days of instruction or hours of instruction that
8 count toward the 180-day or 1,080-hour requirement and requires
9 the board of directors or the authorities to extend the school
10 calendar to make up for those school days.

11 The bill defines "online learning".