

House File 229 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 229
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 103)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to temporary in-person and remote learning
2 instruction and instructional time requirements for school
3 districts and accredited nonpublic schools, and including
4 effective date provisions.

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

1 Section 1. IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION DURING THE 2020-2021
2 SCHOOL YEAR.

3 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
4 including 2020 Iowa Acts, chapter 1107, beginning no later than
5 the second Monday following the effective date of this Act and
6 ending June 30, 2021, a brick-and-mortar school district or
7 accredited nonpublic school shall provide an opportunity for
8 a parent or guardian of each student enrolled in the school
9 district or accredited nonpublic school to select full-time
10 in-person instruction for the parent's or guardian's student
11 unless this requirement is explicitly waived for one or
12 more school districts or accredited nonpublic schools in a
13 proclamation of a public health disaster emergency issued by
14 the governor pursuant to section 29C.6 and related to COVID-19.
15 A school district or accredited nonpublic school that is not
16 providing an opportunity for full-time in-person instruction
17 on the effective date of this Act shall provide to the parents
18 and guardians of students enrolled in the school district
19 or accredited nonpublic school notice of the opportunity to
20 select full-time in-person instruction and shall allow the
21 parent or guardian at least five days to decide whether to
22 select the full-time in-person option if the school district or
23 accredited nonpublic school will also continue to offer other
24 instructional options.

25 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
26 for the school year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June
27 30, 2021, any instruction provided by a school district or
28 accredited nonpublic school shall be deemed to meet the days
29 and hours of instructional time requirements of Iowa law
30 only if the instruction is provided in compliance with all
31 requirements of Iowa law, including this Act; or pursuant
32 to 2020 Iowa Acts, chapter 1107; or under a proclamation of
33 a public health disaster emergency issued by the governor
34 pursuant to section 29C.6 and related to COVID-19.

35 Sec. 2. REQUESTS TO MOVE TO REMOTE LEARNING FOR A SCHOOL

1 BUILDING OR DISTRICT. For the school year beginning July 1,
2 2020, and ending June 30, 2021, to the extent the governor
3 waives the requirement for full-time in-person instruction
4 pursuant to subsection 1 of section 1 of this Act or authorizes
5 a brick-and-mortar school district or accredited nonpublic
6 school to provide instruction primarily through continuous
7 remote learning pursuant to 2020 Iowa Acts, chapter 1107, by
8 conditioning the waiver or authorization on approval by the
9 department of education, the department of education shall
10 consider, in addition to any other factors or information,
11 data regarding the number of teachers employed by the school
12 district or school who are quarantining due to exposure to
13 COVID-19, as well as the scarcity of substitute teachers and
14 school bus drivers.

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
16 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

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 in-person and remote learning
21 instruction and instructional time requirements for school
22 districts and accredited nonpublic schools for the 2020-2021
23 school year.

24 Beginning no later than the second Monday following
25 the effective date of the bill and ending June 30, 2021, a
26 brick-and-mortar school district or accredited nonpublic school
27 shall provide an opportunity for a parent or guardian of each
28 student enrolled to select full-time in-person instruction for
29 the student unless this requirement is explicitly waived in
30 a proclamation of a public health disaster emergency issued
31 by the governor pursuant to Code section 29C.6 and related to
32 COVID-19.

33 A school district or accredited nonpublic school that is not
34 providing an opportunity for full-time in-person instruction
35 on the effective date of the bill must notify the parents and

1 guardians of the opportunity to allow the parent or guardian
2 at least five days to decide whether to select the full-time
3 in-person option if the school district or accredited nonpublic
4 school will also continue to offer other instructional options.

5 For the school year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending
6 June 30, 2021, any instruction provided by a school district
7 or accredited nonpublic school shall be deemed to meet the
8 days and hours of instructional time requirements of Iowa
9 law only if the instruction is provided in compliance with
10 all requirements of Iowa law, including those in the bill;
11 or pursuant to 2020 Iowa Acts, chapter 1107; or under a
12 proclamation of a public health disaster emergency, which is
13 related to COVID-19 and issued by the governor.

14 Also for the 2020-2021 school year, to the extent the
15 governor waives the requirement for full-time in-person
16 instruction pursuant to the bill, or authorizes a
17 brick-and-mortar school district or accredited nonpublic
18 school to provide instruction primarily through continuous
19 remote learning by conditioning the waiver or authorization on
20 approval by the department of education, the department shall
21 consider, in addition to any other factors or information,
22 data regarding the number of teachers employed by the school
23 district or school who are quarantining due to exposure to
24 COVID-19, as well as the scarcity of substitute teachers and
25 school bus drivers.

26 The bill takes effect upon enactment.