

House Study Bill 585 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON WHEELER)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act modifying the earliest possible start date of the school
2 calendar for school districts and accredited nonpublic
3 schools.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2024, 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 August 23, but if August 23
6 is a weekday other than Monday, no sooner than the Monday
7 immediately preceding August 23, and no later than the first
8 Monday in December. The school calendar shall include not
9 less than one hundred eighty days or one thousand eighty hours
10 of instruction during the calendar year, of which not more
11 than five days or thirty hours of instruction may be delivered
12 primarily over the internet except as otherwise provided in
13 section 256.43 or in rules adopted by the state board of
14 education pursuant to [section 256.7, subsection 32](#). The board
15 of directors of a school district and the authorities in
16 charge of an accredited nonpublic school shall determine the
17 school start date for the school calendar in accordance with
18 this subsection and shall set the number of days or hours of
19 required attendance for the school year as provided in section
20 299.1, subsection 2, but the board of directors of a school
21 district shall hold a public hearing on any proposed school
22 calendar prior to adopting the school calendar. If the board
23 of directors of a district or the authorities in charge of an
24 accredited nonpublic school extends the school calendar because
25 inclement weather caused the school district or accredited
26 nonpublic school to temporarily close during the regular school
27 calendar, the school district or accredited nonpublic school
28 may excuse a graduating senior who has met district or school
29 requirements for graduation from attendance during the extended
30 school calendar. A school corporation may begin employment
31 of personnel for in-service training and development purposes
32 before the date to begin elementary and secondary school.

33

EXPLANATION

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

1 This bill modifies the earliest possible start date of the
2 school calendar for school districts and accredited nonpublic
3 schools. Current law provides that the school calendar for
4 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall begin
5 no sooner than August 23. The bill modifies this provision
6 to provide that, if August 23 is a weekday other than Monday,
7 the school calendar shall begin no sooner than the Monday
8 immediately preceding August 23.