

House File 11 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 11
BY SORENSEN

A BILL FOR

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2025, 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 the earlier of August 23 or the
6 first business day that falls three days after the final day
7 of the Iowa state fair and no later than the first Monday in
8 December. The school calendar shall include not less than one
9 hundred eighty days or one thousand eighty hours of instruction
10 during the calendar year, of which not more than five days
11 or thirty hours of instruction may be delivered primarily over
12 the internet except as otherwise provided in section 256.43 or
13 in rules adopted by the state board of education pursuant to
14 section 256.7, subsection 32. The board of directors of a
15 school district and the authorities in charge of an accredited
16 nonpublic school shall determine the school start date for the
17 school calendar in accordance with this subsection and shall
18 set the number of days or hours of required attendance for
19 the school year as provided in section 299.1, subsection 2,
20 but the board of directors of a school district shall hold a
21 public hearing on any proposed school calendar prior to adopting
22 the school calendar. If the board of directors of a district
23 or the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school
24 extends the school calendar because inclement weather caused the
25 school district or accredited nonpublic school to temporarily
26 close during the regular school calendar, the school district
27 or accredited nonpublic school may excuse a graduating senior
28 who has met district or school requirements for graduation
29 from attendance during the extended school calendar. A school
30 corporation may begin employment of personnel for in-service
31 training and development purposes before the date to begin
32 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 to
6 provide that the school calendar shall, instead, begin no sooner
7 than the earlier of August 23 or the first business day that
8 falls three days after the final day of the Iowa state fair.

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