

House Study Bill 31 - 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
- 2 school calendar for school districts and accredited nonpublic
- 3 schools.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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

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 modifies the earliest possible start date of the

1 school calendar for school districts and accredited nonpublic
2 schools. Current law provides that the school calendar for
3 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall begin
4 no sooner than August 23. The bill modifies this provision to
5 provide that the school calendar shall, instead, begin no sooner
6 than the earlier of August 23 or the first Wednesday following
7 the final day of the Iowa state fair.

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