

House File 352 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 352
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 84)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 13, 2013)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school instructional hours and school
2 instructional days and including effective date provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, Code 2013, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 19. ~~Define the minimum school day as a day consisting~~
4 ~~of five and one-half hours of instructional time for grades~~
5 ~~one through twelve. The minimum hours as time that shall be~~
6 ~~exclusive of the lunch period, but may include passing time~~
7 ~~between classes. Time spent on parent-teacher conferences~~
8 ~~shall be considered instructional time. A school or school~~
9 ~~district may record a day of school with less than the minimum~~
10 ~~instructional hours as a minimum school day if any of the~~
11 ~~following apply:~~

12 ~~a. If emergency health or safety factors require the late~~
13 ~~arrival or early dismissal of students on a specific day.~~

14 ~~b. If the total hours of instructional school time for~~
15 ~~grades one through twelve for any five consecutive school days~~
16 ~~equal a minimum of twenty-seven and one-half hours, even though~~
17 ~~any one day of school is less than the minimum instructional~~
18 ~~hours because of a staff development opportunity provided for~~
19 ~~the professional instructional staff or because parent-teacher~~
20 ~~conferences have been scheduled beyond the regular school day.~~
21 ~~Furthermore, if the total hours of instructional time for the~~
22 ~~first four consecutive days equal at least twenty-seven and~~
23 ~~one-half hours because parent-teacher conferences have been~~
24 ~~scheduled beyond the regular school day, a school or school~~
25 ~~district may record zero hours of instructional time on the~~
26 ~~fifth consecutive school day as a minimum school day.~~

27 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 5, Code 2013, is amended
28 to read as follows:

29 5. A charter school or innovation zone school shall provide
30 instruction for at least the number of days hours required by
31 section 279.10, subsection 1, ~~or shall provide at least the~~
32 ~~equivalent number of total hours.~~

33 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 1. The school year for each school district and accredited

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

29 Sec. 4. Section 279.10, subsection 2, Code 2013, is amended
30 to read as follows:

31 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on any
32 proposal relating to the school calendar prior to submitting it
33 to the department of education for approval.

34 Sec. 5. Section 299.1, subsection 2, Code 2013, is amended
35 to read as follows:

1 2. The board of directors of a public school district or
2 the governing body of an accredited nonpublic school shall set
3 the number of ~~days~~ hours of required attendance for the schools
4 under its control. The board of directors of a public school
5 district or the governing body of an accredited nonpublic
6 school may, by resolution, require attendance for the entire
7 time when the schools are in session in any school year and
8 adopt a policy or rules relating to the reasons considered to
9 be valid or acceptable excuses for absence from school.

10 Sec. 6. Section 299.4, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 1. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child who
13 is of compulsory attendance age, who places the child under
14 competent private instruction under either section 299A.2 or
15 299A.3, not in an accredited school or a home school assistance
16 program operated by a school district or accredited nonpublic
17 school, shall furnish a report in duplicate on forms provided
18 by the public school district, to the district by ~~the earliest~~
19 ~~starting date specified in section 279.10, subsection 1~~
20 September 1 of the school year in which the child will be under
21 competent private instruction. The secretary shall retain and
22 file one copy and forward the other copy to the district's
23 area education agency. The report shall state the name and
24 age of the child, the period of time during which the child
25 has been or will be under competent private instruction for
26 the year, an outline of the course of study, texts used, and
27 the name and address of the instructor. The parent, guardian,
28 or legal custodian of a child, who is placing the child under
29 competent private instruction for the first time, shall also
30 provide the district with evidence that the child has had the
31 immunizations required under section 139A.8, and, if the child
32 is elementary school age, a blood lead test in accordance with
33 section 135.105D. The term "*outline of course of study*" shall
34 include subjects covered, lesson plans, and time spent on the
35 areas of study.

1 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 2014.