

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 280

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HOUGHTON.

0869H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 171.031, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the opening date for school terms.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 171.031, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 171.031, to read as follows:

171.031. 1. Each school board shall prepare annually a calendar for the school term, specifying the opening date and providing a minimum term of at least one hundred seventy-four days for schools with a five-day school week or one hundred forty-two days for schools with a four-day school week, and one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance. In addition, such calendar shall include six make-up days for possible loss of attendance due to inclement weather as defined in subsection 1 of section 171.033.

2. Each local school district may set its opening date each year, which date shall be no earlier than ten calendar days prior to the first Monday in September. No public school district shall select an earlier start date unless, **for calendars for school years before school year 2018-19**, the district follows the procedure set forth in subsection 3 of this section. **The procedure set forth in subsection 3 of this section shall be unavailable to school districts in preparing their calendars for school year 2018-19 and for subsequent years.**

3. **For calendars for school years before school year 2018-19**, a district may set an opening date that is more than ten calendar days prior to the first Monday in September only if the local school board first gives public notice of a public meeting to discuss the proposal of opening school on a date more than ten days prior to the first Monday in September, and the local school board holds said meeting and, at the same public meeting, a majority of the board votes

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 to allow an earlier opening date. If all of the previous conditions are met, the district may set its
19 opening date more than ten calendar days prior to the first Monday in September. The condition
20 provided in this subsection must be satisfied by the local school board each year that the board
21 proposes an opening date more than ten days before the first Monday in September.

22 4. If any local district violates the provisions of this section, the department of
23 elementary and secondary education shall withhold an amount equal to one quarter of the state
24 funding the district generated under section 163.031 for each date the district was in violation
25 of this section.

26 5. The provisions of subsections 2 to 4 of this section shall not apply to school districts
27 in which school is in session for twelve months of each calendar year.

28 6. The state board of education may grant an exemption from this section to a school
29 district that demonstrates highly unusual and extenuating circumstances justifying exemption
30 from the provisions of subsections 2 to 4 of this section. Any exemption granted by the state
31 board of education shall be valid for one academic year only.

32 7. No school day for schools with a five-day school week shall be longer than seven
33 hours except for vocational schools which may adopt an eight-hour day in a metropolitan school
34 district and a school district in a first class county adjacent to a city not within a county, and any
35 school that adopts a four-day school week in accordance with section 171.029.

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