

JAN 31 2001  
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 135  
BY SCHRADER

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the school year beginning date.  
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 135

1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2001, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. The school year shall begin annually on the ~~first-day~~  
4 of July 1 and ~~each-regularly-established-elementary-and~~  
5 ~~secondary-school-shall-begin-no-sooner-than-a-day-during-the~~  
6 ~~calendar-week-in-which-the-first-day-of-September-falls-but-no~~  
7 ~~later-than-the-first-Monday-in-December~~ end the following June  
8 30. ~~However, if the first-day-of-September-falls-on-a-Sunday,~~  
9 ~~school-may-begin-on-a-day-during-the-calendar-week-which~~  
10 ~~immediately-precedes-the-first-day-of-September.--School~~ The  
11 regular school calendar may commence on or after July 1, but  
12 once commenced shall continue for at least one hundred eighty  
13 days, except as provided in subsection 3, ~~and may be~~  
14 ~~maintained-during-the-entire-calendar-year~~. However, if the  
15 board of directors of a district extends the school calendar  
16 because inclement weather caused the district to temporarily  
17 close school during the regular school calendar, the district  
18 may excuse a graduating senior who has met district or school  
19 requirements for graduation from attendance during the  
20 extended school calendar. A school corporation may begin  
21 employment of personnel for in-service training and  
22 development purposes before the date to begin elementary and  
23 secondary school.

24 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2001, is  
25 amended by striking the subsection.

26 Sec. 3. Section 299.4, Code 2001, is amended to read as  
27 follows:

28 299.4 REPORTS AS TO PRIVATE INSTRUCTION.

29 The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child who is  
30 of compulsory attendance age, who places the child under  
31 competent private instruction under either section 299A.2 or  
32 299A.3, not in an accredited school or a home school  
33 assistance program operated by a public or accredited  
34 nonpublic school, shall furnish a report in duplicate on forms  
35 provided by the public school district, to the district by the

1 ~~earliest-starting-date-specified-in-section-279-107-subsection~~  
2 ± August 15 of the school year in which the child is placed  
3 under private instruction. The secretary shall retain and  
4 file one copy and forward the other copy to the district's  
5 area education agency. The report shall state the name and  
6 age of the child, the period of time during which the child  
7 has been or will be under competent private instruction for  
8 the year, an outline of the course of study, texts used, and  
9 the name and address of the instructor. The parent, guardian,  
10 or legal custodian of a child, who is placing the child under  
11 competent private instruction for the first time, shall also  
12 provide the district with evidence that the child has had the  
13 immunizations required under section 139A.8. The term  
14 "outline of course of study" shall include subjects covered,  
15 lesson plans, and time spent on the areas of study.

16 Sec. 4. Section 257.17, Code 2001, is repealed.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill abolishes the requirement that school start  
19 during the week in which September 1 falls and makes related  
20 changes.

21 The bill specifies that the annual school year begins on  
22 July 1 and ends the following June 30. Once commenced, the  
23 bill requires that the school calendar continue for at least  
24 180 days. The bill strikes a subsection that permits a school  
25 to apply to the department of education for a waiver from the  
26 school start date, and repeals a Code section that penalizes  
27 schools by reducing their state aid payments if they begin  
28 their calendars early. In accordance with the change in the  
29 school start date, the bill establishes a deadline of August  
30 15 for the filing of a report that a parent who places a child  
31 under competent private instruction must furnish to the school  
32 district of residence. Currently, the report must be  
33 furnished by the earliest starting date specified in the Code,  
34 which under the bill is July 1.

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