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FEB 21 2001

Place On Calendar

HOUSE FILE 355
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 135)

Passed House, ^(P. 505) Date 2/27/01 Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes 97 Nays 2 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 355

1 Section 1. Section 257.17, Code 2001, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 257.17 AID REDUCTION FOR EARLY SCHOOL STARTS.

4 State aid payments made pursuant to section 257.16 for a
5 fiscal year shall be reduced by one one-hundred-eightieth for
6 each day of that fiscal year for which the school district
7 begins school before the earliest starting date specified in
8 section 279.10, subsection 1. However, this section does not
9 apply to a school district that has received approval from the
10 director of the department of education under section 279.10,
11 subsection 4, to commence classes ~~for-regularly-established~~
12 ~~elementary-and-secondary-schools-in-advance-of~~ prior to the
13 earliest starting date established in section 279.10,
14 subsection 1.

15 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsections 1, 3, and 4, Code
16 2001, are amended to read as follows:

17 1. The school year shall begin annually on ~~the-first-day~~
18 ~~of July 1.~~ Each and-each regularly established elementary and
19 secondary school shall begin no sooner than ~~a-day-during-the~~
20 ~~calendar-week-in-which-the-first-day-of-September-falls-but-no~~
21 ~~later-than-the-first-Monday-in-December.--However,-if-the~~
22 ~~first-day-of-September-falls-on-a-Sunday,-school-may-begin-on~~
23 ~~a-day-during-the-calendar-week-which-immediately-precedes-the~~
24 ~~first-day-of-September~~ the third Monday in August. School
25 shall continue for at least one hundred eighty days, except as
26 provided in subsection 3, and may be maintained during the
27 entire calendar year. However, if the board of directors of a
28 district extends the school calendar because inclement weather
29 caused the district to temporarily close school during the
30 regular school calendar, the district may excuse a graduating
31 senior who has met district or school requirements for
32 graduation from attendance during the extended school
33 calendar. A school corporation may begin employment of
34 personnel for in-service training and development purposes
35 before the date to begin elementary and secondary school.

1 3. The board of directors of a school district may request
2 approval from the department of education for a ~~pilot~~ program
3 for an innovative school year. The number of days per year
4 that school is in session may be more or less than those
5 specified in subsection 1, but the innovative school year
6 shall provide for an equivalent number of total hours that
7 school is in session.

8 The board shall file a request for approval with the
9 department not later than November 1 of the preceding school
10 year. The request shall include a listing of the savings and
11 goals to be attained under the innovative school year subject
12 to rules adopted by the department under chapter 17A. The
13 department shall notify the districts of the approval or
14 denial of ~~pilot~~ programs not later than the next following
15 January 15.

16 A request ~~to-continue~~ for an innovative school year ~~pilot~~
17 ~~project-after-its-initial-year~~ also shall include an
18 evaluation of the savings and impacts on the educational
19 program in the district.

20 Participation in a ~~pilot~~ project shall not modify
21 provisions of a master contract negotiated between a school
22 district and a certified bargaining unit pursuant to chapter
23 20 unless mutually agreed upon.

24 4. The director of the department of education may grant a
25 request made by a board of directors of a school district
26 stating its desire to commence classes ~~for-regularly~~
27 ~~established-elementary-and-secondary-schools~~ prior to the
28 earliest starting date specified in subsection 1. A request
29 shall be based upon the determination that a starting date on
30 or after the earliest starting date specified in subsection 1
31 would have a significant negative educational impact.

32 EXPLANATION

33 This bill changes the earliest allowed school start date
34 from a date during the week in which September 1 falls to the
35 third Monday in August and makes related changes.

1 The bill permits a school to apply to the department of
2 education for a waiver from the school start date.

3 The bill also strikes language relating to "pilot"
4 innovative school year programs, but continues to permit a
5 school district to apply to the department of education for
6 approval of an innovative school year.

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HOUSE FILE 355

H-1080

- 1 Amend House File 355 as follows:
- 2 1. Page 1, line 11, by striking the figure "4"
- 3 and inserting the following: "3".
- 4 2. Page 1, line 15, by striking the word and
- 5 figures ", 3, and 4" and inserting the following:
- 6 "and 3".
- 7 3. Page 2, line 7, by inserting after the word
- 8 "session." the following: "The department may approve
- 9 a request for an innovative school year in which
- 10 classes commence prior to the earliest starting date
- 11 established in subsection 1."
- 12 4. Page 2, by striking lines 24 through 31 and
- 13 inserting the following:
- 14 "Sec. ____ Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code
- 15 2001, is amended by striking the subsection."
- 16 5. By renumbering as necessary.

By DOLECHECK of Ringgold

H-1080 FILED FEBRUARY 26, 2001

(p.505) *adapted*
2/27/01

HOUSE FILE 355

H-1082

- 1 Amend House File 355 as follows:
- 2 1. Page 1, line 24, by striking the words "the
- 3 third Monday in August" and inserting the following:
- 4 "fourteen days prior to Labor Day".

By DOLECHECK of Ringgold

H-1082 FILED FEBRUARY 26, 2001

(p.504) *adapted*
2/27/01

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BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 135)

(As Amended and Passed by the House February 27, 2001)

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2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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House Amendments _____

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7 shall provide for an equivalent number of total hours that
8 school is in session. The department may approve a request
9 for an innovative school year in which classes commence prior
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13 year. The request shall include a listing of the savings and
14 goals to be attained under the innovative school year subject
15 to rules adopted by the department under chapter 17A. The
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17 denial of ~~pi~~lot programs not later than the next following
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20 ~~project-after-its-initial-year~~ also shall include an
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24 provisions of a master contract negotiated between a school
25 district and a certified bargaining unit pursuant to chapter
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27 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2001, is
28 amended by striking the subsection.

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