

MAR 8 2006
Place On Calendar

HOUSE FILE 2709
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 725)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the minimum hours of instructional school time
2 in a school year for grades one through twelve for school
3 districts, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools,
4 and providing an effective date.

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

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HF 2709

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, Code Supplement
2 2005, is amended by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, Code Supplement 2005, is amended by
4 adding the following new subsection:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 27. Adopt rules that define what
6 constitutes instructional time for purposes of the minimum
7 hours of instructional time set forth in section 279.10.
8 Instructional time shall not include passing time, recess, the
9 lunch period, time for assemblies, time spent on parent-
10 teacher conferences, late arrival or dismissal times required
11 for emergency health or safety factors, or time used for
12 professional development.

13 Sec. 3. Section 256F.4, subsection 5, Code 2005, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 5. A charter school shall provide instruction for at least
16 the number of days hours required by section 279.10,
17 ~~subsection 1, or shall provide at least the equivalent number~~
18 ~~of total hours.~~

19 Sec. 4. Section 279.10, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2005,
20 are amended to read as follows:

21 1. The school year shall begin on the first day of July
22 and each regularly established elementary and secondary school
23 shall begin no sooner than a day during the calendar week in
24 which the first day of September falls but no later than the
25 first Monday in December. However, if the first day of
26 September falls on a Sunday, school may begin on a day during
27 the calendar week which immediately precedes the first day of
28 September. School ~~shall continue for at least one hundred~~
29 ~~eighty days, except as provided in subsection 3, and~~ may be
30 maintained during the entire calendar year. However, ~~if the~~
31 ~~board of directors of a district extends the school calendar~~
32 ~~because inclement weather caused the district to temporarily~~
33 ~~close school during the regular school calendar, the A school~~
34 district may excuse shall require a graduating senior who has
35 ~~met district or school~~ to meet the same requirements for

1 ~~graduation-from~~ attendance during the extended school calendar
2 as those required of any other class of students enrolled at
3 the secondary level in the school district, except with regard
4 to activities related to graduation as authorized by the
5 school district. The minimum hours of instructional time in a
6 school year for grades one through six shall be nine hundred
7 ninety hours. The minimum hours of instructional time in a
8 school year for grades seven through twelve shall be one
9 thousand eighty hours. A school corporation may begin
10 employment of personnel for in-service training and
11 development purposes before the date to begin elementary and
12 secondary school.

13 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on
14 any ~~proposal~~ request authorized under subsection 4 prior to
15 submitting it to the department of education for approval.

16 Sec. 5. FUTURE EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July
17 1, 2007.

18 EXPLANATION

19 This bill replaces the current 180-day school calendar,
20 which converts to a required 990 hours of instructional school
21 time at 5.5 hours per day, with a requirement that the school
22 calendar include 990 hours of instructional time for grades
23 1--6 and 1,080 hours of instructional time for grades 7--12.

24 The bill strikes a Code provision directing the state board
25 of education to define the minimum school day and allowing the
26 minimum hours to include early dismissals or late arrivals for
27 inclement weather or emergency health factors and staff
28 development. However, the bill adds a new requirement that
29 the state board define what constitutes instructional time,
30 which the bill states cannot include passing time, recess, the
31 lunch period, assembly time, parent-teacher conferences, late
32 arrival or exceptional dismissal times, or professional
33 development time.

34 The bill eliminates a provision that authorizes a school
35 district to excuse a graduating senior from attendance on days

Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency
Fiscal Note

HF 2709 - School Year (LSB 5131 HV)

Analyst: Dwayne Ferguson (Phone: [515] 281-6561) (dwayne.ferguson@legis.state.ia.us)

Fiscal Note Version - New

Description

House File 2709 replaces the 180-day calendar with one requiring 990 hours of instruction for grades one through six and 1,080 hours of instruction for grades seven through twelve. The Bill requires the State Board to define instructional time excluding passing time, recess, lunch period, assembly time, parent-teacher conferences, late arrival or exceptional dismissal times, and professional development time. Graduating seniors are not required to attend school days added due to inclement weather and those affected by graduation activities. A school district is required to hold a public hearing on a request to change the school start date prior to submitting the request to the Department of Education.

Background

The current 180-day calendar is based on a minimum of 5.5 hours per day, which corresponds to 990 hours. The Department of Education reports that the current average instructional time, without professional development, is 1,023 hours for the elementary level, 1,113 hours for the middle school level, and 1,143 hours for the high school level.

Assumptions

6. Elementary schools operating on a current 7-hour school day (ex. 8:20 am to 3:20 pm, net of 1 hour for lunch and recesses) will be able to meet the 990 minimum hour requirement, and have time for parent-teacher conferences (12 hours), assemblies (4 hours), professional development (24 hours) and still have up to 50 hours for late starts and early dismissals.
7. Secondary schools operating on a current 7-hour school day (ex. 8:20 am to 3:20 pm, net of 1 hour for lunch and passing time) will have 1,080 hours available which is the minimum requirement. Additional time would need to be added for parent-teacher conferences (12 hours), assemblies (4 hours), professional development (24 hours) with no allowance for inclement weather.
8. School districts with contracts exceeding the proposed minimum hours have more flexibility in dealing with the requirements of this Bill without incurring costs.
9. School districts have a variety of options for dealing with the minimum hour requirements, such as extending the school day, adding contract days, eliminating assemblies, reducing late starts by commencing classes before students arrive, and other actions.

Fiscal Impact

Due to various options available to school districts, it is not possible to estimate the fiscal impact of House File 2709.

Source

Department of Education

Dennis C Prouty

March 13, 2006

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.

HOUSE FILE 2709
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 725)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 21, 2006)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

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House Amendments _____

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2 2005, is amended by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, Code Supplement 2005, is amended by
4 adding the following new subsection:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 27. Adopt rules that define what
6 constitutes instructional time for purposes of the minimum
7 hours of instructional time set forth in section 279.10.
8 Instructional time shall not include the lunch period, recess,
9 time for noninstructional assemblies, late arrival or early
10 dismissal times required for emergency health or safety
11 factors, weather-related late starts or early releases, or
12 time used for professional development.

13 Sec. 3. Section 256F.4, subsection 5, Code 2005, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 5. A charter school shall provide instruction for at least
16 the number of days hours required by section 279.10,
17 ~~subsection 17-or-shall-provide-at-least-the-equivalent-number~~
18 ~~of-total-hours.~~

19 Sec. 4. Section 279.10, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2005,
20 are amended to read as follows:

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

1 ~~graduation-from~~ attendance during the ~~extended~~ school calendar
2 as those required of any other class of students enrolled at
3 the secondary level in the school district, except with regard
4 to activities related to graduation as authorized by the
5 school district. The minimum hours of instructional time in a
6 school year for grades one through six shall be nine hundred
7 ninety hours. The minimum hours of instructional time in a
8 school year for grades seven through twelve shall be one
9 thousand eighty hours. A school corporation may begin
10 employment of personnel for in-service training and
11 development purposes before the date to begin elementary and
12 secondary school.

13 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on
14 any ~~proposals~~ request authorized under subsection 4 prior to
15 submitting it to the department of education for approval.

16 Sec. 5. FUTURE EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July
17 1, 2008.

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Tymeson - CH
Kaufmann
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HOUSE FILE 02709
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON TYMESON)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

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16 September falls on a Sunday, school may begin on a day during
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19 ~~eighty-days,-except-as-provided-in-subsection-3,-and~~ may be
20 maintained during the entire calendar year. ~~However,-if-the~~
21 ~~board-of-directors-of-a-district-extends-the-school-calendar~~
22 ~~because-increment-weather-caused-the-district-to-temporarily~~
23 ~~close-school-during-the-regular-school-calendar,-the~~ A school
24 district may-execute shall require a graduating senior ~~who-has~~
25 ~~met-district-or-school~~ to meet the same requirements for
26 ~~graduation-from~~ attendance during the extended school calendar
27 as those required of any other class of students enrolled at
28 the secondary level in the school district. The minimum hours
29 of instructional time in a school year for grades one through
30 six shall be nine hundred ninety hours. The minimum hours of
31 instructional time in a school year for grades seven through
32 twelve shall be one thousand eighty hours. A school
33 corporation may begin employment of personnel for in-service
34 training and development purposes before the date to begin
35 elementary and secondary school.

1 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on
2 any ~~proposal~~ request authorized under subsection 4 prior to
3 submitting it to the department of education for approval.

4 Sec. 4. INSTRUCTIONAL TIME DEFINITION RECOMMENDATIONS.

5 The department of education shall make legislative and
6 administrative recommendations defining instructional time for
7 students enrolled in Iowa school districts in a report which
8 shall be submitted to the standing senate and house of
9 representatives committees on education by December 1, 2006.
10 The department shall include a description of instruction,
11 activities, or other school experiences that are currently
12 counted as instructional time by school districts. The
13 recommendations shall include an implementation timeline for
14 any proposed definition of instructional time.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill replaces the current 180-day school calendar,
17 which converts to a required 990 hours of instructional school
18 time at 5.5 hours per day, with a requirement that the school
19 calendar include 990 hours of instructional time for grades
20 1--6 and 1,080 hours of instructional time for grades 7--12.

21 The bill strikes a Code provision directing the state board
22 of education to define the minimum school day and allowing the
23 minimum hours to include early dismissals or late arrivals for
24 inclement weather or emergency health factors and staff
25 development.

26 The bill eliminates a provision that authorizes a school
27 district to excuse a graduating senior from attendance on days
28 added to the school calendar to make up for days lost due to
29 inclement weather. The bill requires that graduating seniors
30 meet the same attendance requirements as those required of any
31 other class of students at the secondary level.

32 The bill also specifies that a school district must hold a
33 public hearing on a request to change the school start date
34 prior to submitting the request to the department.

35 The bill requires the department of education to make

1 recommendations defining instructional time in a report to the
2 senate and house standing education committees by December 1,
3 2006.

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