

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2557

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CHAPPELLE-NADAL.

Read 1st time April 1, 2008 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

5526L.01I

AN ACT

To repeal section 171.031, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to school year length.

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Section A. Section 171.031, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 171.031, to read as follows: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 and one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance. **In a county with a charter form of government and with more than one million inhabitants, school shall be in session and instruction offered for not less than one hundred eighty days within each school year.** 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 the district follows the procedure set forth in subsection 3 of this section.

3. 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

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.

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

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

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

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

31 7. No school day shall be longer than seven hours except for vocational schools which
32 may adopt an eight-hour day in a metropolitan school district and a school district in a first class
33 county adjacent to a city not within a county.

✓