

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 246

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PORTER.

0366H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

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

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Section A. Section 171.031, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 171.031, to read as follows: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, days of planned attendance, 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 school year 2019-20 and subsequent years, one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance shall be required for the school term with no minimum number of school days. 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. In school year 2019-20 and subsequent years, such calendar shall include thirty-six make-up hours for possible loss of attendance due to inclement weather, as defined in subsection 1 of section 171.033, with no minimum number of make-up days.

2. Each local school district may set its opening date each year, which date shall be no earlier than fourteen calendar days prior to the first Monday in September **except as provided in subsection 6 of this section**. No public school district shall select an earlier start date unless, for calendars for school years before school year 2020-21, the district follows the procedure set forth in subsection 3 of this section. **Except as provided in subsection 6 of this section**, the

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.

17 procedure set forth in subsection 3 of this section shall be unavailable to school districts in
18 preparing their calendars for school year 2020-21 and for subsequent years.

19 3. For calendars for school years before school year 2020-21, a district may set an
20 opening date that is more than fourteen calendar days prior to the first Monday in September only
21 if the local school board first gives public notice of a public meeting to discuss the proposal of
22 opening school on a date more than fourteen days prior to the first Monday in September, and
23 the local school board holds said meeting and, at the same public meeting, a majority of the
24 board votes to allow an earlier opening date. If all of the previous conditions are met, the district
25 may set its opening date more than fourteen calendar days prior to the first Monday in
26 September. The condition provided in this subsection must be satisfied by the local school board
27 each year that the board proposes an opening date more than fourteen days before the first
28 Monday in September.

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

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

35 6. **Notwithstanding any provision of subsection 2 of this section to the contrary, any**
36 **school with a four-day school week may set its opening date each year on a day that is more**
37 **than fourteen calendar days prior to the first Monday in September by following a**
38 **procedure substantially similar to the one provided in subsection 3 of this section.**

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

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