### SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1417

## **102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SAULS.

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.011, 160.041, 163.021, 171.031, and 171.033, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seven new sections relating to the minimum school term.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 160.011, 160.041, 163.021, 171.031, and 171.033, RSMo, are 2 repealed and seven new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 160.011, 160.041, 163.021, 163.045, 171.028, 171.031, and 171.033, to read as follows: 3 160.011. As used in chapters 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 167, 168, 170, 171, 177 and 178, the following terms mean: 2 3 (1) "District" or "school district", when used alone, may include seven-director, urban, and metropolitan school districts; 4 5 (2) "Elementary school", a public school giving instruction in a grade or grades not higher than the eighth grade; 6 7 (3) "Family literacy programs", services of sufficient intensity in terms of hours, and 8 of sufficient duration, to make sustainable changes in families that include: 9 (a) Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children; 10 (b) Training of parents regarding how to be the primary teacher of their children and full partners in the education of their children; 11 12 (c) Parent literacy training that leads to high school completion and economic self sufficiency; and 13 14 (d) An age-appropriate education to prepare children of all ages for success in school; 15 (4) "Graduation rate", the quotient of the number of graduates in the current year as of 16 June thirtieth divided by the sum of the number of graduates in the current year as of June

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.

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17 thirtieth plus the number of twelfth graders who dropped out in the current year plus the 18 number of eleventh graders who dropped out in the preceding year plus the number of tenth

19 graders who dropped out in the second preceding year plus the number of ninth graders who

20 dropped out in the third preceding year;

(5) "High school", a public school giving instruction in a grade or grades not lowerthan the ninth nor higher than the twelfth grade;

(6) "Metropolitan school district", any school district the boundaries of which are
coterminous with the limits of any city which is not within a county;

(7) "Public school" includes all elementary and high schools operated at publicexpense;

(8) "School board", the board of education having general control of the property and
affairs of any school district;

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(9) "School term"[<del>,</del>] includes the following:

30 (a) For all school years ending before July 1, 2025, a minimum of one hundred 31 seventy-four school days, as that term is defined in section 160.041, for schools with a five-32 day school week or a minimum of one hundred forty-two school days, as that term is defined 33 in section 160.041, for schools with a four-day school week, and one thousand forty-four 34 hours of actual pupil attendance as scheduled by the board pursuant to section 171.031 during 35 a twelve-month period in which the academic instruction of pupils is actually and regularly 36 carried on for a group of students in the public schools of any school district[-];

37 (b) In school year 2019-20 and subsequent school years ending before July 1, 2025,
38 one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance shall be required with no minimum
39 number of school days required[-];

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(c) For the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years:

a. A minimum of one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance as
scheduled by the board under section 171.031 during a twelve-month period in which
the academic instruction of pupils is actually and regularly carried on for a group of
students in the public schools of any school district; and

b. For a school district that is located wholly or partially in a county with a charter form of government or a school district that is located wholly or partially in a city with more than thirty thousand inhabitants, a minimum of one hundred sixty-nine school days, as that term is defined in section 160.041, unless the district has adopted a four-day school week as provided in section 171.028, in which case the district school term shall have a minimum of one hundred forty-two school days, as such term is defined in section 160.041; and

52 (d) A school term may be within a school year or may consist of parts of two 53 consecutive school years, but does not include summer school. A district may choose to

54 operate two or more terms for different groups of children. A school term for students 55 participating in a school flex program as established in section 160.539 may consist of a 56 combination of actual pupil attendance and attendance at college or technical career education 57 or approved employment aligned with the student's career academic plan for a total of the 58 required number of hours as provided in this subdivision;

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(10) "Secretary", the secretary of the board of a school district;

60 (11) "Seven-director district", any school district which has seven directors and 61 includes urban districts regardless of the number of directors an urban district may have 62 unless otherwise provided by law;

(12) "Taxpayer", any individual who has paid taxes to the state or any subdivision
thereof within the immediately preceding twelve-month period or the spouse of such
individual;

66 (13) "Town", any town or village, whether or not incorporated, the plat of which has 67 been filed in the office of the recorder of deeds of the county in which it is situated;

(14) "Urban school district", any district which includes more than half of the
population or land area of any city which has not less than seventy thousand inhabitants, other
than a city which is not within a county.

160.041. 1. (1) For all school years ending before July 1, 2025, the "minimum 2 school day" consists of three hours for schools with a five-day school week or four hours for 3 schools with a four-day school week in which the pupils are under the guidance and direction 4 of teachers in the teaching process.

5 (2) A "school month" consists of four weeks of five days each for schools with a five-6 day school week or four weeks of four days each for schools with a four-day school week.

7 (3) In school year 2019-20 and subsequent school years ending before July 1, 2025,
8 no minimum number of school days shall be required[, and].

9 (4) The term "school day" shall mean any day in which, for any amount of time, 10 pupils are under the guidance and direction of teachers in the teaching process.

(5) The "school year" commences on the first day of July and ends on the thirtieth dayof June following.

13 2. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, the 14 commissioner of education is authorized to reduce the required number of hours or days in 15 which the pupils are under the guidance and direction of teachers in the teaching process if:

16 [(1)] (a) There is damage to or destruction of a public school facility which requires
 17 the dual utilization of another school facility; or

18 [(2)] (b) Flooding or other inclement weather as defined in subsection 1 of section
 19 171.033 prevents students from attending the public school facility.

20 (2) Such reduction shall not extend beyond two calendar years in duration.

163.021. 1. A school district shall receive state aid for its education program only if

2 it:

3 (1) (a) For all school years ending before July 1, 2025, provides for a minimum of one hundred seventy-four days and one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance 4 in a term scheduled by the board pursuant to section 160.041 for each pupil or group of 5 pupils, except that the board shall provide a minimum of one hundred seventy-four days and 6 7 five hundred twenty-two hours of actual pupil attendance in a term for kindergarten pupils. If any school is dismissed because of inclement weather after school has been in session for 8 9 three hours, that day shall count as a school day including afternoon session kindergarten students. When the aggregate hours lost in a term due to inclement weather decreases the 10 total hours of the school term below the required minimum number of hours by more than 11 12 twelve hours for all-day students or six hours for one-half-day kindergarten students, all such hours below the minimum must be made up in one-half day or full day additions to the term, 13 except as provided in section 171.033. In school year 2019-20 and subsequent school years 14 ending before July 1, 2025, one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance with no 15 16 minimum number of school days shall be required for each pupil or group of pupils; except that, the board shall provide a minimum of five hundred twenty-two hours of actual pupil 17 18 attendance in a term for kindergarten pupils with no minimum number of school days; and

19 (b) For the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years, provides for at 20 least a minimum school term as provided in section 171.031. When the aggregate hours 21 lost in a term due to inclement weather decreases the total hours of the school term 22 below the required minimum number of hours by more than twelve hours for all-day 23 students or six hours for one-half-day kindergarten students, all such hours below the 24 minimum shall be made up as provided in section 171.033;

25 (2) Maintains adequate and accurate records of attendance, personnel and finances, as 26 required by the state board of education, which shall include the preparation of a financial 27 statement which shall be submitted to the state board of education the same as required by the 28 provisions of section 165.111 for districts;

(3) Levies an operating levy for school purposes of not less than one dollar and
twenty-five cents after all adjustments and reductions on each one hundred dollars assessed
valuation of the district; and

32 (4) Computes average daily attendance as defined in subdivision (2) of section 33 163.011 as modified by section 171.031. Whenever there has existed within the district an 34 infectious disease, contagion, epidemic, plague or similar condition whereby the school 35 attendance is substantially reduced for an extended period in any school year, the 36 apportionment of school funds and all other distribution of school moneys shall be made 37 on the basis of the school year next preceding the year in which such condition existed.

38 2. For the 2006-07 school year and thereafter, no school district shall receive more 39 state aid, as calculated under subsections 1 and 2 of section 163.031, for its education 40 program, exclusive of categorical add-ons, than it received per weighted average daily 41 attendance for the school year 2005-06 from the foundation formula, line 14, gifted, remedial 42 reading, exceptional pupil aid, fair share, and free textbook payment amounts, unless it has an 43 operating levy for school purposes, as determined pursuant to section 163.011, of not less 44 than two dollars and seventy-five cents after all adjustments and reductions. Any district 45 which is required, pursuant to Article X, Section 22 of the Missouri Constitution, to reduce its operating levy below the minimum tax rate otherwise required under this subsection shall not 46 47 be construed to be in violation of this subsection for making such tax rate reduction. Pursuant to Section 10(c) of Article X of the state constitution, a school district may levy the operating 48 49 levy for school purposes required by this subsection less all adjustments required pursuant to 50 Article X, Section 22 of the Missouri Constitution if such rate does not exceed the highest tax rate in effect subsequent to the 1980 tax year. Nothing in this section shall be construed to 51 52 mean that a school district is guaranteed to receive an amount not less than the amount the 53 school district received per eligible pupil for the school year 1990-91. The provisions of this 54 subsection shall not apply to any school district located in a county of the second 55 classification which has a nuclear power plant located in such district or to any school district located in a county of the third classification which has an electric power generation unit with 56 57 a rated generating capacity of more than one hundred fifty megawatts which is owned or 58 operated or both by a rural electric cooperative except that such school districts may levy for 59 current school purposes and capital projects an operating levy not to exceed two dollars and 60 seventy-five cents less all adjustments required pursuant to Article X, Section 22 of the 61 Missouri Constitution.

3. No school district shall receive more state aid, as calculated in section 163.031, for its education program, exclusive of categorical add-ons, than it received per eligible pupil for the school year 1993-94, if the state board of education determines that the district was not in compliance in the preceding school year with the requirements of section 163.172, until such time as the board determines that the district is again in compliance with the requirements of section 163.172.

4. No school district shall receive state aid, pursuant to section 163.031, if such
district was not in compliance, during the preceding school year, with the requirement,
established pursuant to section 160.530 to allocate revenue to the professional development
committee of the district.

5. No school district shall receive more state aid, as calculated in subsections 1 and 2 of section 163.031, for its education program, exclusive of categorical add-ons, than it received per weighted average daily attendance for the school year 2005-06 from the

foundation formula, line 14, gifted, remedial reading, exceptional pupil aid, fair share, and free textbook payment amounts, if the district did not comply in the preceding school year with the requirements of subsection 5 of section 163.031.

6. Any school district that levies an operating levy for school purposes that is less than the performance levy, as such term is defined in section 163.011, shall provide written notice to the department of elementary and secondary education asserting that the district is providing an adequate education to the students of such district. If a school district asserts that it is not providing an adequate education to its students, such inadequacy shall be deemed to be a result of insufficient local effort. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any special district established under sections 162.815 to 162.940.

163.045. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in addition to all funds distributed to school districts and charter schools under sections 2 3 160.415 and 163.031, the department of elementary and secondary education shall, after 4 rendering all calculations required under sections 160.415 and 163.031, remit an amount 5 equal to two percent of each district's and charter school's preceding year June state aid 6 entitlement as calculated in accordance with sections 160.415 and 163.031 for any 7 district or charter school with a preceding year school term that provided for one 8 hundred sixty-nine school days or more. Days that include hours of attendance excused or waived under section 171.033 shall be enumerated when determining such one-9 10 hundred-sixty-nine-day threshold.

11 2. Any moneys received under this section shall be used by districts and charter 12 schools solely to increase teacher salaries. Any district or charter school that receives 13 moneys under this section but fails to use such moneys solely to increase teacher salaries 14 shall have an amount equal to the amount of such funds received withheld from such 15 district's or charter school's state aid payments under section 160.415 or 163.031.

171.028. 1. The school board of a school district that is located wholly or partially in a county with a charter form of government, or located wholly or partially in a city with more than thirty thousand inhabitants, may establish a four-day school week in lieu of a five-day school week for ten-year periods only as permitted under this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any district other than a school district that is located wholly or partially in a county with a charter form of government or a school district located wholly or partially in a city with more than thirty thousand inhabitants.

9 2. (1) A school board may adopt the provisions of subsection 1 of this section by 10 referring to the qualified voters of the school district a ballot measure authorizing such 11 adoption. Such proposal shall be referred to the qualified voters of the school district 12 upon a majority vote of the members elected to the school board. Upon such adoption

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13 by the school board, the measure shall be submitted to the qualified voters at the next date available for public elections under chapter 115 and by July first of the school year 14 15 in which the four-day school week is proposed to commence. If a majority of the votes cast on the question by the qualified voters voting thereon are in favor of the measure, 16 17 the provisions of subsection 1 of this section shall become effective. If a majority of the votes cast on the question by the qualified voters voting thereon are opposed to the 18 19 measure, the board shall not adopt the provisions of subsection 1 of this section unless 20 and until the measure is resubmitted under this subsection to the qualified voters and 21 such question is approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting on the measure.

(2) The question submitted by the school board under this subsection shall be in
substantially the following form: "Shall the school board of \_\_\_\_\_\_ adopt the provisions
of Section 171.028, RSMo, establishing a four-day school week for the next ten years in
the district of \_\_\_\_\_?".

26 3. Upon the school board's adoption of a four-day school week, any school 27 district that adopts a four-day school week shall file a calendar with the department of 28 elementary and secondary education in accordance with section 171.031. Such calendar 29 shall include, but not be limited to, a minimum term of one hundred forty-two school 30 days, as the term "school days" is defined in section 160.041, and a minimum of one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance hours during a twelve-month 31 32 period in which the academic instruction of pupils is actually and regularly carried on 33 for a group of students in the public schools of any school district under the provisions 34 of section 171.031.

171.031. 1. (1) For all school years ending before July 1, 2025, 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.

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(2) For the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years:

7 (a) Each school board shall prepare annually a calendar for the school term,
8 specifying the opening date, days of planned attendance, and providing a minimum
9 term of at least one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance; and

10 (b) For a school district that is located wholly or partially in a county with a 11 charter form of government or a school district that is located wholly or partially in a 12 city with more than thirty thousand inhabitants, a minimum of one hundred sixty-nine 13 school days, unless the district has adopted a four-day school week as provided in 14 section 171.028, in which case the district school term shall have a minimum of one 15 hundred forty-two school days.

(3) In school year 2019-20 and subsequent school years ending before July 1, 2025,
one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance shall be required for the school term
with no minimum number of school days.

19 (4) In addition, such calendar shall include six make-up days for possible loss of 20 attendance due to inclement weather as defined in subsection 1 of section 171.033. In school 21 year 2019-20 and subsequent **school** years, such calendar shall include thirty-six make-up 22 hours for possible loss of attendance due to inclement weather, as defined in subsection 1 of 23 section 171.033, with no minimum number of make-up days.

2. (1) For all school years ending before July 1, 2025, each local school district 25 may set its opening date each year, which date shall be no earlier than fourteen calendar days 26 prior to the first Monday in September. No public school district shall select an earlier start 27 date unless, for calendars for school years before school year 2020-21, the district follows the 28 procedure set forth in subsection 3 of this section. The procedure set forth in subsection 3 of 29 this section shall be unavailable to school districts in preparing their calendars for school year 30 2020-21 and for subsequent school years.

(2) For the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years, 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, provided that a district with a minimum school term of one hundred seventy-five school days or more may select an earlier school opening date, but only by following the procedure set forth in subsection 3 of this section.

37 3. [For calendars for school years before school year 2020-21, a district] (1) For the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years, a school district with a minimum 38 39 school term of one hundred seventy-five school days may set an opening date that is more 40 than fourteen calendar days prior to the first Monday in September only if the local school 41 board first gives public notice of a public meeting to discuss the proposal of opening school 42 on a date more than fourteen days prior to the first Monday in September, and the local school 43 board holds said meeting and, at the same public meeting, a majority of the board votes to 44 allow an earlier opening date.

45 (2) If all of the [previous] conditions described in subdivision (1) of this subsection
46 are met, the district may set its opening date more than fourteen calendar days prior to the first
47 Monday in September.

48 (3) The condition provided in this subsection must be satisfied by the local school 49 board each year that the board proposes an opening date more than fourteen days before the 50 first Monday in September.

4. If any local district violates the provisions of this section, the department of elementary and secondary education shall withhold an amount equal to one quarter of the

53 state funding the district generated under section 163.031 for each date the district was in 54 violation of this section.

55 5. The provisions of subsections 2 to 4 of this section shall not apply to school 56 districts in which school is in session for twelve months of each calendar year.

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

171.033. 1. "Inclement weather", for purposes of this section, shall be defined as ice,snow, extreme cold, excessive heat, flooding, or a tornado.

3 2. (1) (a) A district shall be required to make up the first six days of school lost or 4 cancelled due to inclement weather and half the number of days lost or cancelled in excess of 5 six days if the makeup of the days is necessary to ensure that the district's students will attend:

a. For all school years ending before July 1, 2025, a minimum of one hundred
forty-two days and a minimum of one thousand forty-four hours for the school year, except as
otherwise provided in this section; or

9 b. For the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years, a minimum 10 school term as provided in section 171.031, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(b) Schools with a four-day school week may schedule such make-up days onFridays.

13 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, in school year 2019-20 and 14 subsequent **school** years, a district shall be required to make up the first thirty-six hours of 15 school lost or cancelled due to inclement weather and half the number of hours lost or 16 cancelled in excess of thirty-six if the makeup of the hours is necessary to ensure that the 17 district's students attend a minimum of one thousand forty-four hours for the school year, 18 except as otherwise provided under subsections 3 and 4 of this section.

19 3. (1) In the 2009-10 school year and subsequent **school** years, a school district may 20 be exempt from the requirement to make up days of school lost or cancelled due to inclement 21 weather in the school district when the school district has made up the six days required under 22 subsection 2 of this section and half the number of additional lost or cancelled days up to 23 eight days, resulting in no more than ten total make-up days required by this section.

(2) In school year 2019-20 and subsequent **school** years, a school district may be exempt from the requirement to make up school lost or cancelled due to inclement weather in the school district when the school district has made up the thirty-six hours required under subsection 2 of this section and half the number of additional lost or cancelled hours up to forty-eight, resulting in no more than sixty total make-up hours required by this section.

4. (1) The commissioner of education may provide[,] for any school district that cannot meet the minimum school calendar requirement [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 or, in school year 2019-20 and subsequent years, one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance], upon request, a waiver to be excused from such requirement to the following school districts:

(a) For school years ending before July 1, 2025, a school district that cannot meet
the minimum school calendar requirement 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 or,
in school year 2019-20 and subsequent school years, one thousand forty-four hours of
actual pupil attendance; and

42 (b) For the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years, a school district 43 that cannot meet the minimum school calendar requirement as provided in section 44 171.031.

45 (2) This waiver shall be requested from the commissioner of education and may be 46 granted if the school was closed due to circumstances beyond school district control, 47 including inclement weather or fire.

48 5. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in school year 2020-21 and 49 subsequent **school** years, a district shall not be required to make up any hours of school lost or cancelled due to exceptional or emergency circumstances during a school year if the district 50 51 has an alternative methods of instruction plan approved by the department of elementary and 52 secondary education for such school year. Exceptional or emergency circumstances shall 53 include, but not be limited to, inclement weather, a utility outage, or an outbreak of a contagious disease. The department of elementary and secondary education shall not approve 54 any such plan unless the district demonstrates that the plan will not negatively impact 55 56 teaching and learning in the district.

57 (2) If school is closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances and the district 58 has an approved alternative methods of instruction plan, the district shall notify students and 59 parents on each day of the closure whether the alternative methods of instruction plan is to be 60 implemented for that day. If the plan is to be implemented on any day of the closure, the 61 district shall ensure that each student receives assignments for that day in hard copy form or 62 receives instruction through virtual learning or another method of instruction.

(3) A district with an approved alternative methods of instruction plan shall not use
alternative methods of instruction as provided for in the plan for more than thirty-six hours
during a school year. A district that has used such alternative methods of instruction for

66 thirty-six hours during a school year shall be required, notwithstanding subsections 2 and 3 of

this section, to make up any subsequent hours of school lost or cancelled due to exceptional oremergency circumstances during such school year.

69 (4) The department of elementary and secondary education shall give districts with 70 approved alternative methods of instruction plans credit for the hours in which they use 71 alternative methods of instruction by considering such hours as hours in which school was 72 actually in session.

(5) Any district wishing to use alternative methods of instruction under this
subsection shall submit an application to the department of elementary and secondary
education. The application shall describe:

(a) The manner in which the district intends to strengthen and reinforce instructionalcontent while supporting student learning outside the classroom environment;

(b) The process the district intends to use to communicate to students and parents thedecision to implement alternative methods of instruction on any day of a closure;

80 (c) The manner in which the district intends to communicate the purpose and 81 expectations for a day in which alternative methods of instruction will be implemented to 82 students and parents;

(d) The assignments and materials to be used within the district for days in which
alternative methods of instruction will be implemented to effectively facilitate teaching and
support learning for the benefit of the students;

86 (e) The manner in which student attendance will be determined for a day in which 87 alternative methods of instruction will be implemented. The method chosen shall be linked to 88 completion of lessons and activities;

(f) The instructional methods, which shall include instruction through electronic
 means and instruction through other means for students who have no access to internet
 services or a computer;

(g) Instructional plans for students with individualized education programs; and

93 (h) The role and responsibility of certified personnel to be available to communicate94 with students.

6. In the 2022-23 school year and subsequent **school** years, a school district's onehalf-day education programs shall be subject to the following provisions in proportions appropriate for a one-half-day education program, as applicable:

98 (1) Requirements in subsection 2 of this section to make up days or hours of school99 lost or cancelled because of inclement weather;

100 (2) Exemptions in subsection 3 of this section;

101 (3) Waiver provisions in subsection 4 of this section; and

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102 (4) Approved alternative methods of instruction provisions in subsection 5 of this103 section.