

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 916

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CRAWFORD.

Read 1st time January 16, 2018, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

5946S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 171.031, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the opening date for school terms.

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Section A. Section 171.031, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 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
2 school term, specifying the opening date and providing a minimum term of at
3 least one hundred seventy-four days for schools with a five-day school week or one
4 hundred forty-two days for schools with a four-day school week, and one thousand
5 forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance. In addition, such calendar shall
6 include six make-up days for possible loss of attendance due to inclement weather
7 as defined in subsection 1 of section 171.033.

8 2. Each local school district may set its opening date each year, which
9 date shall be no earlier than ten calendar days prior to the first Monday in
10 September. No public school district shall select an earlier start date unless, **for**
11 **calendars for school years before school year 2019-20**, the district follows
12 the procedure set forth in subsection 3 of this section. **The procedure set forth**
13 **in subsection 3 of this section shall be unavailable to school districts**
14 **in preparing their calendars for school year 2019-20 and for subsequent**
15 **years.**

16 3. **For calendars for school years before school year 2019-20**, a
17 district may set an opening date that is more than ten calendar days prior to the
18 first Monday in September only if the local school board first gives public notice
19 of a public meeting to discuss the proposal of opening school on a date more than
20 ten days prior to the first Monday in September, and the local school board holds

21 said meeting and, at the same public meeting, a majority of the board votes to
22 allow an earlier opening date. If all of the previous conditions are met, the
23 district may set its opening date more than ten calendar days prior to the first
24 Monday in September. The condition provided in this subsection must be
25 satisfied by the local school board each year that the board proposes an opening
26 date more than ten days before the first Monday in September.

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

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

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

39 7. No school day for schools with a five-day school week shall be longer
40 than seven hours except for vocational schools which may adopt an eight-hour day
41 in a metropolitan school district and a school district in a first class county
42 adjacent to a city not within a county, and any school that adopts a four-day
43 school week in accordance with section 171.029.

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