

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/14/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1937

By: Representative Lowery

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF TITLE 6 OF THE ARKANSAS
CODE CONCERNING THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE SCHOOL
YEAR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF TITLE 6 OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE BEGINNING
AND END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(a), concerning the dates for the beginning and end of the school year, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) ~~In each school year~~ Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, the first day of the school year for student attendance in the public elementary and secondary schools of the State of Arkansas shall be:

~~(i) On or after the Monday of the week in which August 19 falls;~~

~~(ii) Not earlier than August 14; and~~

~~(iii) Not later than August 26~~ on or after the Tuesday of the week in which Labor Day is observed.

(B) The date for beginning the school year shall be determined by the board of directors of the school district.

(C) ~~Labor Day shall be celebrated as a school holiday in all the school districts of the state, and school shall not be held on that date.~~

~~(D)~~ As used in this section, "week" means a seven-day



period that begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday.

(2) The Department of Education may grant a school district a waiver to begin school on ~~an earlier or~~ a later date if the department determines that there exists a material and substantial reason for the school district to begin on ~~an earlier or~~ a later date due to very exceptional or emergency circumstances such as a contagious disease outbreak, inclement weather, or other acts of God.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(c), concerning the dates for the beginning and end of the school year, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) ~~If the~~ The school year in any school district ~~extends~~ shall not extend beyond the Friday before the date observed as Memorial Day, such date shall be a holiday in the school district.

(2) Provided, upon approval of the department, ~~this date~~ the week after Memorial Day may be used as a make-up day in any school district which has unavoidably lost more than five (5) scheduled days of student attendance during the course of the school year due to contagious disease outbreaks, inclement weather, or other acts of God.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106, concerning the dates for the beginning and end of the school year, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(g) The department shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

/s/Lowery