

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H1/18/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1122

By: Representatives Vaught, J. Mayberry, Cozart

By: Senator K. Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DATES FOR THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DATES FOR THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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) ~~Beginning with the 2023-2024~~ Each school year, the first day of the school year for student attendance in public elementary and secondary schools shall ~~not be earlier than the Monday two (2) weeks before Labor Day;~~

(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.

(B) The date for beginning the school year shall be determined by the board of directors of each school district ~~in accordance with subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section.~~

(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)~~(A)~~ The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may grant a school district a waiver to begin school on an earlier or a later date if the division determines that there exists a material and substantial reason for the school district to begin school 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.

~~(B) The division shall not grant a public school district a waiver under § 6-15-103 to begin school on an earlier date.~~

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that public schools need a certain amount of time to determine the school calendar for the upcoming school year, which requires meetings and determinations of dates certain; that for purposes of teacher and administrator contracts, establishing the school calendar is important; and that this act is immediately necessary because public schools need to know as soon as practicable what the statutory requirements are with respect to establishing the school calendars for the upcoming school year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/Vaught